# Daily Report

# Latin America

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*FBIS-LAT-94-069* *11 April 1994*

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## Cuba

### Havana Reports U.S. Policy on Third-Country Entry

*FL0804194694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] The U.S. Government ratified its immigration policy on Cubans who try to enter that nation through third countries. Mike McCurry, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said that the U.S. Government will continue denying U.S. entry to those Cubans who use third countries to achieve that purpose. McCurry pointed out that U.S. immigration policy will remain unchanged, while defending the decision of the U.S. Coast Guard to return to the Bahamas 19 Cubans who on 12 April tried to enter U.S. territory from those Caribbean islands.

The U.S State Department spokesman admitted that crossing the sea by Cubans who abandon the island in boats or fragile vessels is not safe, but is a threat to their lives. Cuban authorities, on the other hand, believe that Washington encourages the illegal departure of Cubans by breaking the migration agreements that establish a concession of up to 20,000 visas per year.

Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana and an expert on Cuban issues, from the International Center for International Policies, stated that the U.S. Government has even systematically denied visas to people who have traveled to the United States in the past.

### University Conducts Illegal Emigration Study

*FL0904013794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Illegal immigration is an issue on which our people have many different views. It is an extremely dangerous endeavor for those who have emigrated illegally from Cuba by sea. Research is being conducted precisely on this topic by a specialist of the Center for Political Alternatives of the University of Havana. Its deputy director, Antonio Aja, explains:

[Aja] "This is an in-depth study of the characteristics of those who emigrate illegally; the motives of the people who make the decision to emigrate illegally; who they are; what their reasons are; and the risks taken once the decision and attempt to illegally emigrate is made."

The researcher also spoke about the significance of this act for national security and human life.

[Aja] "Emigrating through the Guantanamo Naval Base is not the same as emigrating in a raft."

The classification of people who attempt to emigrate by sea was another of the goals of this study.

[Aja] "They can basically be classified as young. This is understandable because, first of all, this endeavor requires a certain physical ability."

This interview is only an excerpt of a broad subject that we will discuss further in this program over the next few days.

### Robaina Makes Unofficial Stopover in Argentina

*FL0804232394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina is in the Argentine capital on a two-hour [as heard] technical stopover en route to Peru. During this required technical stopover, Robaina will spend most of his time holding news conferences with Buenos Aires' most important newspapers and television and radio news networks. Exclusive interviews with Channel 13, the newspaper EL CLARIN, PAGINA DOCE, Radio America Dos, and the news agencies ANSA and EFE have already been confirmed.

Today, Roberto Robaina will meet with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, who for work reasons will not be in Buenos Aires during the Cuban delegation's official visit. In the same way, several entrepreneurs in the pharmaceutical sphere have expressed great interest in speaking to Minister Robaina on Friday [8 April] to learn of Cuba's achievements in the area of biopharmaceuticals.

With this 48-hour technical stopover in Buenos Aires en route to Peru, the subject of Cuba; its current reality; and its economic, political, and social prospects are beginning to be heard in Argentine public opinion before the delegation's official visit.

### Meets Foreign Minister Di Tella

*FL0904151194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Argentina Friday [8 April] on an official visit and declared that relations between the two countries are on the right track. In Buenos Aires, Robaina met with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella.

### Arrives in Peru for Two-Day Visit

*FL1104022194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] On 10 April, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Peru for a two-day visit. He arrived in Lima from Buenos Aires where he met with Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, representatives of more than 15 news agencies, and with Cuban singer Silvio Rodriguez. Rodriguez, accompanied by Anabel Lopez, is to sing in various Argentine provinces. Robaina said that it was mandatory to meet with Silvio Rodriguez, because with his art he takes Cuba's reality to thousands of Argentines who appreciate his music.

Robaina added that Rodriguez' music is also an expression of Cuba's foreign policy.

In Lima, Robaina met with representatives of the LA REPUBLICA newspaper, and Cuban Embassy staff and officials. Robaina also met with a large group of Cubans who work in Peru, over 30 sports trainers, doctors, and other support personnel. Robaina also met with the Cuban community in Peru, which for over 30 years has maintained an attitude of respect, dialogue, and understanding with Cuba.

On 11 April, Robaina and his delegation will meet with Peruvian businessmen at the Banco Continental de Lima. Later on, high-level meetings will be held between the representatives of Cuba's and Peru's Foreign Ministries.

### Colombian Deputy Ministers To Take Part in Commission

*FL0904144594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] We have a last-minute cable announcing that five deputy ministers and other high-ranking Colombian officials from divers sectors are coming to Cuba tomorrow [10 April] to participate in the first meeting of the mixed binational commission that will be meeting 11-15 April.

The deputy ministers who will take part in this meeting are: Deputy Minister of Education Antonio Lizarazo, who heads the delegation; Deputy Minister of Health Eduardo Alvarado; Deputy Foreign Minister Andelfo Garcia; Deputy Minister of Development Camilo Penalosa; and Deputy Minister of Communications Jaime Uride. Also in the delegation are the directors of the following institutes: Luis Munoz, Sports; Juan Luis Mejia, Culture; (Fernando Sarama), Civil Aviation; and (Miguel Ricaurte), of the National Training Service [Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje].

### Russia, Colombia Favor Lifting U.S. Blockade

*FL0804192894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Russia and Colombia today supported the proposal in favor of lifting the U.S. blockade against Cuba on the occasion of Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin's visit to Moscow.

After signing an agreement on bilateral relations, Sanin confirmed in a brief dialogue with reporters that the Cuban issue was discussed, especially common satisfaction with the reestablishment of relations between Havana and Bogota. Andrey Kozyrev also said that Russia favors the normalization of relations between Cuba and the United States. He added that confrontations should be avoided, and residuals of the Cold War left behind.

### Colombia's Sanin Backs Cuban Membership in OAS

*FL0904145594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[From "Summary of PRENSA LATINA"]

[Text] In Moscow, Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin has stressed that her country respects the internal affairs of Cuba, a nation that, in her opinion, could be a member of the OAS.

### Dominican Republic Fortifies Border

*FL0804192694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] The Dominican Republic will fortify its border with Haiti to stop the smuggling of fuel and other goods to that country. Haiti is currently facing an international embargo aimed at forcing the military to relinquish the power it wrested from Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

### Commentary: Foreign Money Needed for Oil Exploration

*PA0804185494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 94*

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Agreements with two countries could clear up Cuba's energy future if they are ultimately implemented, allowing the island to improve its economy, whose Achilles' heel is precisely the lack of fuel.

The weekly OPCIONES, which circulates in Cuba to provide information to tourists and foreign residents, said in its latest edition that Cuba and Russia ratified an agreement last December to exchange Cuban sugar for Russian petroleum. Through this agreement, Moscow would send 2.5 million tons of petroleum to the island this year in exchange for 1 million tons of unrefined sugar.

A few days ago, Mexican Ambassador to Cuba Carlos Tello revealed both countries had signed a letter of intent to exploit, under a joint enterprise scheme, some 60,000 barrels of petroleum at the Cienfuegos refinery on the southern coast of Cuba, and to produce petroleum byproducts for sale on domestic and world markets.

If the accord signed by Havana and the Mexican state-owned company Mexpetrol advances favorably, the refined product would be sold in the Cuban market and the oversupply in other nations. The origin of the current Cuban economic crisis is related to energy following the reduction in petroleum supplies from the defunct Soviet Union, which in 1989 supplied a little more than 13 million tons.

Cuba has been forced to get its economy going with only half of this amount, because it does not have the financial reserves to purchase all of its petroleum needs. For similar reasons, Cuba mothballed its electronuclear program launched with the Soviet Union in 1980, when investments exceeded $1.2 billion. For the time being, this has eliminated the possibility of reducing dependence on imported petroleum. Cuba does not have plentiful rivers, large forests, or significant coal deposits, and it only exploits wells of heavy petroleum, whose production last year hit a record of 1.1 million tons.

National crude oil is used in industry, the production of cement, and power-generation. Additionally, the country has resorted to foreign investments to explore new fields of light petroleum by granting risk contracts. The results of these contracts will only be known in the future.

Even if the agreements with Russia and Mexico bear fruit, not all of the country's needs will be met. Nevertheless, annual payments on imports would be reduced by using petroleum refined at the Cienfuegos installation, in addition to securing the Russian supply in exchange for Cuban sugar.

## Council Decrees Mourning for African Presidents

*FL1104014094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] In view of the deaths of Cyprian Ntaryamira, president of the Republic of Burundi; and Juvenal Habyarimana, president of the Republic of Rwanda, the Council of State has decreed an official period of mourning beginning at 0600 on 11 April until 1800 on 13 April. During this period, the Cuban flag will be flown at half mast in public buildings and military facilities.

## Cienfuegos Announces New Tourism Structure

*FL0904020994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] The new tourism structure, which will be headed by the Tourism Ministry [as heard], has been implemented gradually since 1 April. Osmany Cienfuegos, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, said in a news conference a few minutes ago that this new structure in the tourism sector is seeking greater economic efficiency, more profitability, more expeditiousness in transactions, and better organization throughout the country.

Three main hotel chains have been created. The [name indistinct] chain which will group the four- and five-star hotels. This chain will be headed by Javier Ardizones, former Cuban ambassador to Italy. The Horizon chain, which is headed by Jose Fernandez de Cossio, former Cuban ambassador to Mexico, will comprise three-star hotels. The other chain is the National Blue Island chain, which is headed by Rafael Cespedes, and which in addition to grouping a number of hotels, will also be in charge of other facilities that will offer special honeymoon and other services for national tourism. The installations of the two international chains will be included in this group.

At the national level, the entertainment and tourism companies are organized to exploit the potentials of each province or municipality in the cultural, historical, and sports areas, among others.

This report has been released by Osmany Cienfuegos at the close of the first working meeting on tourism and the role of the media, which was held for three days at the international press center.

## Creation of Ministry Announced

*FL0904155394 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Osmany Cienfuegos, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has announced that the process of making structural changes in the sphere of tourism was set in March. There will henceforth be a Ministry of Tourism and a series of provincial enterprises and chains. Three of these chains will specialize in hotel exploitation.

[Later in the same newscast, in a report on items appearing in GRANMA on 9 April, correspondent Roger Ricardo Luis says: "Among GRANMA's main stories today is a report on the new structure being imposed on the tourism sector in Cuba on the basis of the changes in Intur, the National Institute of Tourism. Osmany Cienfuegos, vice president of the Council of Ministers, has announced that a Ministry of Tourism will be formed soon. The new structure aims to obtain greater efficiency in this vital economic domain."]

## CTC Announces Assemblies for Efficiency Process

*FL0904012394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] On 8 April, the National Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] agreed to hold, for the first time, assemblies on economic efficiency, beginning in the second half of May. The first of these assemblies will be held in April and will examine how to fulfill the decision reached by the workers in the workplace assemblies, as well as new problems in the workplaces. The CTC National Secretariat also officially agreed to allocate eight million pesos a year to cover the expenses of the Jose Marti Pioneers Organization [OPJM].

CTC Secretary General Pedro Ross Leal pointed out that the goal of the decision is to reduce Cuba's budget and ensure that children do not suffer the consequences of the special period and are prepared for the future. OPJM Vice President Laritza Diaz applauded the gesture of the CTC, which will cover the expenses of over 300 children's facilities nationwide to benefit the workers' children.

The CTC National Secretariat also discussed the results of the plenum that closed the Parliament in the Workplace process, and discussed the accomplishments of a group of workplaces nominated to receive National Emulation Vanguard status.

### Alarcon Stresses Economic Efficiency Efforts

*FL0904020594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], stressed that we must thoroughly explore every possibility to achieve higher economic efficiency. Alarcon made this assertion at the closing of a meeting with deputies, Communist Party of Cuba and government officials, and presidents of the People's Councils in Las Tunas Province. Alarcon stressed that the difficulties of the special period will not be solved through nationally implemented measures alone.

The ANPP special session convenes in less than a month to analyze measures aimed at streamlining Cuba's economy, as well as to make it more efficient.

### Alarcon Attends Anniversary of Constitution

*FL1104021294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 apr 94*

[Text] The 125th anniversary of the first Constitution of the Cuban Republic at War was observed on 10 April in Guaimaro, the town that witnessed this historic event in Camaguey Province. The Mambi reveille once again stirred the heart. It summoned the independence movement of 125 years ago today. It is a symbol of the unity of all Cubans around their Revolution and Fidel.

Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], stressed during the political and cultural ceremony marking the 125th anniversary of the Constitution, the heroism of those who in the midst of the struggle selflessly fashioned a republic with altruism, for a just fatherland and equality among men.

[Begin Alarcon recording] When on May Day, the ANPP special session meets to examine the nation's main problems, it will be rendering homage to our heroic and devoted workers, but it will also be a tribute to those who founded the fatherland and held its first meeting here. The ANPP session, like the one in Guaimaro, will achieve a consensus of ideas for the struggle, and in the midst of the struggle; from it, we will emerge as in Guaimaro, with a renewed fighting spirit, with strengthened unity, with a will bolstered to wage today's battle with the energy, dedication, and dignity of the men of 1868. [end recording]

### Rizo Views Need for 'Differentiated Motivation'

*FL0904163194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] During a working visit to the UBPC [Basic Cooperative Production Units] El Cenizo and La Lima, Julian Rizo, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Camaguey, pointed out the need to practice differentiated motivation in every individual case, as a reflection of the effort, attendance, and results of the workers.

### Carlos Lage Assesses Final Stage of Harvest

*FL0904013194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Upon visiting several labor centers in Santiago de Cuba and learning about the principal problems and objectives in each workplace, Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila granted an exclusive interview to this station during which he assessed the final stage of the harvest.

[Begin Lage recording] We can say that the harvest is going through a very difficult, tense situation. In Santiago de Cuba and other provinces as well, the harvest is behind schedule, perhaps because of rains and other factors. The conditions under which the harvest had to be prepared were very difficult. [end recording]

For this reason it has been decided to continue the harvesting activities until May. We must get ready to conclude the harvest under the abnormal conditions of rain and humidity. After more than three months of harvesting, breakdowns are reasonably expected to increase, and so we must look for rapid solutions. However, notwithstanding the inclement weather or material failures, Lage trusts that the workers' spirit will not decline:

[Begin Lage recording] The leaders and workers who are engaged in this harvest have not shown any sign of weariness, although some of these groups have been working for more than 140 days and still need to continue working through the month of April, and perhaps even some days in May. [end recording]

Despite the difficulties, Santiago de Cuba seems to be determined to fullfill its objective. According to the latest assessment, the conditions are appropriate to achieve these objectives, but as in any endeavor to reach the final goal, a greater effort is demanded.

### Sugarcane Weeding Levels Lag in Most Provinces

*FL0704224194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 94*

[Text] The required levels of manual sugarcane weeding were not met by every province during the January-March quarter. This process does not require any type of

imported resources, but relies fundamentally on manpower and the organization and mobilization of the necessary work force.

Holguin and Granma where the only provinces that surpassed their weeding goals; Havana and Camaguey Provinces followed close behind. However, Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara, and Ciego de Avila Provinces did not reach even 50 percent of the areas completed in their best quarters.

### $10 Million Earmarked for Hospital Improvement

*FL0904155294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] The Public Health Ministry has earmarked $10 million for improving comfort and hygienic conditions at hospital centers. At the plenum of the national committee of the sector's workers union, it was reported that this money will cover the need for sheets and other materials, as well as products for cleaning and personal hygiene.

### Health Care Workers Plenum Reaches Agreements

*FL1004195394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] The second plenum of the national committee of the Health Workers Union has been held in this capital; $10 million will be invested to provide sheets and uniforms to workers and hospitals in Cuba. This was learned during the second plenum of the national committee of the Health Workers Union, which also came out in favor of preserving free health care services in all specialized fields, including cosmetic surgery.

The suitability process among work group personnel will begin, with serenity and maturity, said Ramon Crespo, secretary general of the Health Workers Union, who guaranteed that the administrations of all organizations will benefit from this action.

It was determined that attention and motivation in regard to night shift personnel could no longer be postponed. Havana Province has a successful experiment underway in this connection.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We in the province have developed and are continuing to develop a program of sponsorship by large production centers, such as sugar mills, cooperatives, Basic Cooperative Production Units, and cement factories in the muncipalities where they exist, by which the administration and political elements at those centers sponsor and attend to our night shift workers, including medical personnel on the night watch and others who work the graveyard shift.

What does this involve? It involves providing dinner, an afternoon snack, or some snack or cold drink in the late, predawn, hours for those workers who are giving their best and their all to comfort and care for our people. [end recording]

Cuba will be the site of the first international meeting of health care union leaders, to be held in December, 1994.

### Scientific Hub Reactivating Camaguey Power Plant

*FL0804152294 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] The reactivation of an old power plant, the "Manuel Julien," located in the historic sector of the city of Camaguey is one of the responsibilities assigned to the province's scientific hub. After being taken out of service a few years ago, this plant is now undergoing modifications that will allow it to burn solid fuels, mainly bagasse.

Seven groups made up of people from 11 provincial organizations are working on the power plant, which began operating in the 1920's. These people are responsible for repairing the plant's boilers, cooling system, pipes, and water treatment system. The plant is expected to be operational in June, and to be capable of generating 10 megawatts, which is a third of the city of Camaguey's demand.

This is a new responsibility that has been given to the productive scientific hub, and reactivating the plant will allow us to make it available during two periods, as well as incorporate it into the power grid.

## Dominican Republic

### President Not Opposed to International Aid on Embargo

*PA0804204894 Paris AFP in Spanish 1854 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Santo Domingo, 8 Apr (AFP)—President Joaquin Balaguer said on Friday he does not oppose the international community providing logistical assistance in Dominican territory in order to supervise compliance with the UN and OAS embargo against the Haitian military regime.

The Dominican Republic and Haiti share the Caribbean island of La Hispaniola. Recently 48 U.S. Democratic congressmen sent a letter to Balaguer calling on him to put an end to the embargo violations by stopping the transfer of gasoline and fuel oil across the Haitian border.

In an interview with the press, Balaguer admitted "there had been a certain loosening in the surveillance the Armed Forces should maintain to make the blockade effective."

He said many Haitians cross the border, thanks to the "lax surveillance," to stock up on gasoline at gas stations in the Dominican Republic, thus increasing the volume of fuel contraband into Haiti.

He reaffirmed his opposition to the blockade, however, because of the implications it could have for his country. He said the faltering border surveillance "is because of

the exceedingly long time the embargo has been in place and because the naval blockade has not been strictly enforced either."

He announced he has told the representatives of the Group of Friends of Haiti (the United States, France, Canada, and Venezuela), the Dominican Republic cannot maintain an "indefinite policy in support of the blockade" against Haiti. "This is impossible for humanitarian reasons."

He said that the representatives agree it is necessary to resolve the situation and that the Dominican Republic cannot support the blockade for too long.

For the time being, he said, the government will continue to take steps to maintain the embargo. The measures will be reinforced with support offered by the Group of Friends of Haiti, as presented by a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, with whom Balaguer met a few days ago.

Balaguer expressed his hope the Haitian crisis will soon end. "I believe it will, as things are moving in the right direction. I hope the crisis will conclude sooner for the good of all sectors and for the improvement of trade between Haiti and the Dominican Republic," he concluded.

## Haiti

### Senate Bloc Approves New Presidential Elections

*PA1104031594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0215 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 10 Apr (AFP)—The Haitian Senate Bloc, not recognized by the international community, today approved a motion for the appointment of a provisional president and the calling of elections. The bloc approved the motion by 11 votes in favor and two opposed thanks to the support of the eight senators elected in the January 1993 partial legislative elections which has been challenged by the international community.

The proposals refer to the application of Article 149 of the Constitution that foresees the appointment of the president of the court of appeals as president of the Republic in case of a prolonged absence by the president. The Constitution stipulates that in such cases, elections must be called within a "45 to 90 day" period.

The senators decided to announce their decision to the Chamber of Deputies and Appeals Court President Emile Jonassaint. The deputies had already approved another plan, supported by the United States and the United Nations, to solve the country's crisis, but not with the senatorial bloc (led by Firmin Jean-Louis) acknowledged by the international community.

Deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide rejected the aforementioned plan that contemplates the designation of a new prime minister after the departure of Army Chief General Raoul Cedras, even though no mention is made of the date when he will be able to return to the country. [sentence as received]

### Jean-Louis Discusses Safety Risk in Senate

*FL0804213694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] No official request for the safety of senators has yet been sent to the Haitian police, according to the Senate president, Firmin Jean-Louis, on 7 April. The senators are hesitant because risks exist in parliament, he explained. He stated, however, that everything will be done to resume activities in the Senate. Let us listen to Senator Firmin Jean-Louis.

[Begin recording] [Jean-Louis] Certainly, words were spoken. You have heard Osny Eugene say he is resolutely waiting for us. We have assessed the situation and again hesitate. The senators [words indistinct] safety. Once there is a risk of danger or real danger, we hesitate. The diplomatic lounge is not meant for holding sessions. As you know well, there is a session room. It is not question of meeting once or twice. It is question of running the parliamentary institution, the senatorial institution. There is now a problem—the occupation of the premises by those elected during the contested 18 January [1993] elections. We make it a point of.... [pauses] We wish to resume work. We wish to resume normal sessions. To do so, we must, of course, have the session room; we must actually control the administration of the institution.

[Unidentified journalist] Senator [Yvon] Gislain, a member of vour office, has accused you of having done nothing to resume activities. How do you react to his statements?

[Jean-Louis] Perhaps, Sen. Gislain (?did not attend) our last meeting. There are a total of 17 senators, including five who are more or less dissident, who now side with the 18 January parliamentarians; five others who peremptorily say they will sit only in the session; and others who might possibly agree to work elsewhere. You know very well that to hold sessions, you need a minimum of 11 [senators], which constitutes our quorum. Until now, it has been (?impossible) to hold sessions in a place other than the session room. If the police would like to give us a hand to convince those elected in the 18 January elections to put an end to their occupation of the premises, we would certainly not say no.

[Journalist] There is no formal request?

[Jean-Louis] No, not yet. [end recording]

That was Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the National Assembly, who was answering questions from a crowd of journalists concerning the situation in the Senate of the Republic. No formal request has been sent to the Haitian police to ensure the safety of parliamentarians if the activities resume in the Senate of the Republic.

### COP Supports Governors Island Agreement

*FL0904000794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] The Coordinating Body of People's Organizations [Coordination des Organisations Populaires, COP] has reaffirmed its support for the Governors Island agreement, the only valid framework to get the country out of the crisis, according to COP. It thinks the formation of an ad hoc government would just plunge the country into even more chaos. Let us listen to an unidentified COP spokesman:

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording, in Creole] Our position in COP regarding the ad hoc government that is being discussed today is that this idea is not viable. It offers nothing toward resolving the country's crisis. We in COP have always said there is no solution but the Governors Island agreement for resolving the country's crisis, because the Governors Island agreement is an agreement of principle signed by General Cedras and President Aristide in the presence of the international community to resolve the country's crisis.

We think that so long as stalling maneuvers are aimed at preventing the reactivation of the Governors Island agreement, the country's crisis will never be resolved. [end recording]

### Dominican Government Said Opposed to UN Border Observers

*FL0804234894 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] The Dominican Republic is opposed to the presence of foreign observers on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. On 7 April, Dominican Vice Chancellor Fabio Herrera Cabral criticized the idea of sending UN observers to the Dominican Republic border. Vice Chancellor Fabio Herrera Cabral said that to post foreign observers on both sides of the border would be an insult to national sovereignty.

He added, however, that the Dominican Government would be agreeable to accepting observers if they were recruited from among the Dominican population. Mr. Fabio Herrera Cabral was reacting to statements by a UN spokesman raising the possibility of observing the behavior of Dominican authorities from the border with Haiti.

It should be pointed out that over the past few days the Dominican Government was subjected to severe criticism because of its ambiguous attitude toward the embargo, especially its providing gasoline and gas oil to the Republic of Haiti.

### Jeremie Residents Face Difficult Living Conditions

*FL0804212694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Jeremie city hall employees have been on strike for several weeks to demand overdue salaries. It is impossible to communicate by phone with Jeremie. Our regional correspondent came to Port-au-Prince, having noticed a slight improvement in maritime transport. Jean-Obed Maturin has a report:

[Begin Maturin recording, in Creole] The city hall employees continue to demand 10 months of overdue salaries. The employees have asked the minister of the interior to act on their behalf because they can wait no longer. The city hall employees in Jeremie stopped working several months ago.

The population in Jeremie is again begging the telephone company's managers to do something about the telephone lines in Jeremie, which have been out of service for five months. The telephone line failure completely isolates Jeremie from the other departments and from foreign countries. The company's employees spend their days without working. Many of the population hope that the company's managers in Port-au-Prince will take the case of Jeremie into consideration and not dismiss their complaints.

Maritime transport resumed two weeks ago, with the ship FRETA and a few others bringing a little life to Jeremie, which was almost dead. However, even though these activities have resumed, the cost of living has increased in Jeremie. [end recording]

### New Group Claims Responsibility for Assassination

*PA0904144394 Mexico City LA REFORMA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 5A*

[Text] Via a communique, the Mexican Front Against Governmental Corruption [Frente Mexicano Contra la Corrupcion Gubernamental—FMCCG] yesterday claimed resposibility for the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio during his visit to the Lomas Taurinas neighborhood in Tijuana.

Sources within the Mexican Government report that a document, which was sent to the editorial staffs of PRENSA HISPANA and Radio Campesina, both headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, indicates that the front was established recently and that it opposes the president of Mexico, his cabinet, and the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party].

The document states: "The front was created autonomously through the initiative of members of the government of the Mexican Republic, members of the Mexican Army, and 7,000 Mexican 'illegal alliens' [indocumentados] now residing in the United States."

Members of Chicano communities in Arizona, California, and New Mexico who were questioned about this said they knew nothing about this new organization. PRENSA HISPANA is a small weekly distributed among the Mexican-American community and Radio Campesina belongs to the Peasants Union established by Cesar Chavez.

The document says Mario Aburto Martinez, who is currently being held in Almolova in connection with the Colosio slaying, is a member of this front and was the person who opened fire on the presidential candidate.

The document says: "The FMCCG (along with its member Aburto Martinez), weary and desperate because of the alarming economic situation facing the Mexican people for the past 24 years, is adopting measures against the government and claims responsibility for the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio."

The group claims to have deployed death squads throughout the country and vows to attack its targets should its demands not be met.

The document points out: "Over the past six years, we have prepared ourselves to realize, fight, and die for our ideals by punishing those politicians who are in power and are using this power to their advantage to abuse, steal, and commit injustices." Although the document says members of the group are willing to die for their cause, it adds, "of course, they will die before we do."

The five-page document addressed to the Mexican people says Colosio was the first of several targets, and it adds that the attack on the politician marked the start of a fight to the death against the "corrupt traitors of the Mexican Government."

The group warns that there will be no peace in the country until its demands are met and until the members of the government change their positions.

The document adds: "All demands must be met or the loss of thousands of Mexican lives will be inevitable. The only person responsible for this will be you, Carlos Salinas de Gortari."

Among the front's main demands is the establishment of an OAS commission to oversee respect for the human rights of prisoners. Other demands include the addition to the Constitution of an article attributing responsibility to and punishing members of several Mexican governments for crimes of embezzlement and mismanagement of public funds.

The front wants capital punishment established for "traitors of the homeland," and it calls for the confiscation of personal fortunes estimated at $1 billion amassed by former Presidents Luis Echeverria Alvarez, Jose Lopez Portillo, and Miguel de la Madrid, as well as by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Fidel Velasquez, leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers]. The group also levels charges against former Jalisco Governor Guillermo Cosio Vidaurri, other former state leaders, and federal senators and deputies.

### Colosio Murder Suspect Insists He Worked Alone

*PA0804153194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Report over video by Juan Manuel Pereira from the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Mario Aburto Martinez has already given a preliminary deposition from Cell No. 3 at the high security prison in Almoloya de Juarez, Mexico State. Before he gave his deposition, which began at 1730 on 5 April and ended in the morning of 6 April, Aburto watched five videocassettes on the Tijuana events on 23 March, when he killed Luis Colosio. [video shows footage of Colosio walking at the Tijuana campaign rally at which the presidential candidate was shot] Images similar to this one—sometimes in slow motion and sometimes frame by frame—depict Aburto's part in the crime, as well as other people's contribution. A Television Azteca Network camera filmed this event on 23 March.

After Aburto assassinated Colosio, many people beat and virtually crushed him. In this other shot, we can see Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, Sr., wearing a white leather jacket. [video shows Mayoral walking behind Colosio at Tijuana campaign rally] It seems he was also beaten after initially being mistaken for the murderer because of the blood stains on him. His son, Rodolfo Mayoral Esquer, later appeared on the scene and attempted to rescue his father. It seems he was able to rescue his father, because little by little, father and son are left behind by the group that was violently apprehending Mario Aburto Martinez.

Despite all depositions in the hands of judicial authorities who are trying to clarify Colosio's murder, Aburto denied in his preliminary deposition that Colosio's murder was premeditated. He also denied he knows the four people presumed to be his accomplices. He said those who appear in these videotapes and are alleged to be his accomplices are innocent. He insisted he worked alone.

In addition to Aburto, Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, Rodolfo Mayoral Esquer, Rodolfo Riva Palacio, and Tranquilino Sanchez also gave preliminary depositions.

Television Azteca Network is in the position to confirm the identity of Mario Aburto Martinez. This follows claims that the person apprehended on 23 March and the one who was taken to the Almoloya de Juarez prison two days later were not the same individual. Television Azteca Network was able to film these shots when Mario Aburto, after being arrested in Lomas Taurinas, Tijuana, enters the quarters of the Attorney General's Office. This is Mario Aburto Martinez after he was cleaned up. [video shows clean-shaven Aburto behind glass, being presented to media] There are no doubts whatsoever that he is indeed the same person who murdered Colosio.

### Authorities Release One Suspect

*PA1104042294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0229 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Special Assistant Prosecutor's Office in charge of clearing up the murder of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio reported today that one of the suspects in the case was released with reservations and that formal jail warrants were issued for two others.

The Attorney General's Office of the Republic (PGR) added that Jose Rodolfo Rivapalacio Tinajero was released under "legal reservations," due to lack of evidence of his participation in Colosio's murder, which took place on 23 March.

In an official communique, the PGR added that formal jail warrants were issued for Rodolfo Mayoral Esquer and Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, as being probably responsible in the murder, to the degree of coparticipants as aides or accessories to the crime.

The Mayorals, father and son, were acquitted on charges of criminal association due to a lack of evidence; nevertheless, if new evidence is found the case could be reopened for the same crime.

Included in this case are Tranquilino Sanchez Vanegas and Mario Aburto Martinez, perpetrators of the crime that took place in Tijuana, Baja California State, in northwestern Mexico.

The four individuals remain incarcerated in the Almoloya Penitentiary in the State of Mexico, 90 km from this capital where they are to be processed. In the Rivapalacio Tinajero case, the Attorney General's Office made him responsible for incorporating Tranquilino Sanchez Vanegas, Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, and Rodolfo Mayoral Esquer into the group he organized, apparently to keep order during the Lomas Taurinas political event. [passage omitted]

### EZLN's Marcos Identified as Jesuit Priest

*PA1004013594 Mexico City SUMMA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 pp 1A, 3B*

["Exclusive" report by special correspondent Ernesto Esparza]

[Excerpts] Tijuana, Baja California—Self-described insurgent Subcommander "Marcos" of the Zapatista National Liberation Army [EZLN] is Jesuit Priest Jeronimo Hernandez Lopez, according to an investigation by a special federal government group that has its center of operations in Chiapas State.

According to the results obtained from computerized tests, photographs, recordings of his voice, physical similarities, and videocassettes, it was possible to establish that the enigmatic figure who emerged on 1 January in the armed conflict in the mountains of Chiapas is a priest of approximately 36 years of age.

According to confidential information obtained by SUMMA, Jeronimo Hernandez Lopez was sent to Chiapas State four years ago. However, for over two years no one has known in which community he lives.

Photographs obtained by this newspaper corroborate the results of the investigation conducted by the specialized group, which reveals the considerable resemblance and body similarities shared by the priest and Subcommander "Marcos."

Another piece of information that corroborates this is that "Marcos'" guerrilla comrades in the mountains of Chiapas call him the "Monk from Altamirano;" furthermore, in the jungle, mountains, or in combat, he constantly changed his code to avoid being identified.

"Marcos'" alleged identity was obtained through operation "Identity," for which it was necessary to have a special agent infiltrate the EZLN. Through this agent the Federal Government's special group learned all of the insurgents' tactical moves, especially those of its spokesman who, it is said—behind the [ski] mask he always wears when he appears on television or is photographed—is a Jesuit priest who occasionally says mass dressed in white and without a "hood." [passage omitted]

Jeronimo Hernandez Lopez' curriculum, the investigation states, shows that he has always been of a revolutionary bent and that when he was sent to Chiapas he welcomed the appointment.

**Conscientious Investigation**

SUMMA gained access to the investigation whereby the subcommander's alleged identity was established. The most interesting study of all was, unquestionably, the computerized physiognomical study because the eyes, forehead, mouth and nose of the enigmatic figure were compared with hundreds of faces that bore the same characteristics. The task was difficult and quite complicated because there was no room for mistakes. According to the federal government's theory, the Jesuit priest "meets all the requirements" to be Subcommander "Marcos."

Another key feature in the establishment of similarities between both men was the pockmark or mole that both have between the corner of the eyebrow and the eyelid of the right eye. Likewise, the sharp and robust nose; skin color; eyes, which are light brown; the shape of the mouth; the breadth of the forehead is the same; and voice and arm movements.

A comparison was made between "Marcos'" voice during the interviews he has granted to the electronic media and the voice of the Jesuit priest officiating mass. The priest's voice was [recorded] during a mass he presumably officiated in Ocosingo Municipality several hours after the armed uprising on 31 December 1993.

In his homily on that occasion, Hernandez Lopez said: "We will never again allow the murder of a single Indian; to do this we must defend ourselves and always remain united at all cost, with God's help."

**State Secret**

This investigation, which the Federal Government considers a "state secret" and which was already disclosed to the highest ranking officials of the current administration, resulted from the arduous labor of almost three months.

We do not know if, now that the negotiations for stable social peace are to resume in Chiapas, this investigation will be published, but for the time being SUMMA has done so, not with a desire to create confusion over the real identity of Subcommander "Marcos," but solely to attest to the veracity of this information, which is of national and international interest.

We are hereby reiterating our desire to be at the journalistic forefront in order to serve our readers.

## Religious Order Denies Allegation

*PA1004231594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2313 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Mexico City, [no date as received] Apr (AFP)—Jeronimo Hernandez Lopez, a Jesuit priest, "is not Subcommander Marcos," the military chief of the Zapatista guerrillas in the southeastern Mexican State of Chiapas, as the daily SUMMA reported on Friday. Thus was communicated to AFP by Carlos Morfin, member of the Mexican Chapter of the Jesuit Order. The Jesuits "strongly condemned" the publication as "totally false," given that the priest has been working in a Guatemalan refugee camp since 1992; this is why the authorities have his activities registered, Morfin added.

SUMMA published on Thursday [day as received] on its front page a note in which it was reported that Hernandez Lopez was Subcommander Marcos. This was based on a federal government investigation considered to be a "state secret." According to the "secret" report, a computer study of photographs and videos established "a great similarity between the Jesuit priest and Subcommander Marcos, who hides his face behind a ski mask.

Hernandez Lopez, 36, is registered with the Mexican Commission for Aid to Refugees, as the authorities demand of all those who work in the Guatemalan refugee camps, Morfin stressed. From 5 August 1992 to 5 April 1994, Father Hernandez Lopez was assigned to provide pastoral ministry to the Guatemalan refugees in the State of Campeche, in southern Mexico, Morfin explained in an official Jesuit Order communique, subsequently sent to AFP. Since 5 April he was transferred to Chiapas to cooperate in a project the Jesuits have in Bachajon hamlet, the communique adds. Morfin said that Lopez's new transfer "had been reported to Diego Valadez, attorney general of the republic, and Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo, as several days ago he had been interviewed and photographed by national security agents who wanted to confirm his location and place of work."

The Jesuits "strongly condemned SUMMA's report," indicating "it is not very professional to generate slander and insecurity stemming from false reports, without indicating who is responsible for the mentioned investigation." It added that "it was very serious to involve the federal government in general. This publication is added to a long list of false accusations, orchestrated by some media."

The Jesuit member said they fear for the priest's security after publication of the newspaper report; therefore they have talked with the nation's authorities to clear up the matter.

## Chiapas Governor on Delay in Peace Talks

*PA0804173194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 4 Apr 94 p 49*

[Article by Gabriela Coutino]

[Text] San Cristobal de Las Cases, Chiapas, 3 Apr—Chiapas interim Governor Javier Lopez Moreno today said that the delays in the peace talks are causing uncertainty and that Chiapas natives should not be subjected to such anxiety.

At the inauguration of the Spring Peace Fair, Lopez Moreno said: "There is a collective need for the second phase of the dialogue to start soon." This is why he reported that within the next 48 hours he will meet with Peace Commissioner Camacho Solis.

Meanwhile, Felipe Aguirre Franco, bishop of the Tuxtla Gutierrez Dioceses, urged the federal government to speed up the release of 21 "alleged Zapatists" who have been staging a hunger strike at Cerro Hueco Penitentiary since last Friday. The bishop indicated that no matter what the circumstances are, justice must be applied within the framework of the Constitution, "freely, swiftly, and expeditiously."

In Tapachula, Felipe Arizmedi Esquivel used his Easter message to urge the faithful not to give up hope. He said: "Although the rock at the Holy Sepulcher was heavy, Jesus rose from the dead. Courage, do not give up!"

He said: Since 1 January, we have lived in a state of anxiety, doubt, and fear. All of us have asked ourselves: What is going to happen? What violence is going to continue to be unleash? When will we enjoy an honest and true peace?

Arizmendi said that what is being felt at the state level has been felt nationwide since the murder in Tijuana. It seems that a very heavy object fell on us, like the enormous rock that covered the Holy Sepulcher.

He added: There is a feeling of uncertainty, defeat, and pessimism, as if a solution to the problem cannot be found—as if we are buried in an abyss without hope.

Nevertheless, he said, this bleak outlook will be transformed because "the one crucified has risen from the dead.... Do not fear... He will lead you." Indeed, Christ could not be defeated. He is the Lord of life and the Lord of history, Arizmendi added in his Easter message.

This is why we want a new, just, fraternal, united, and pacified Chiapas and Mexico. We must all bury injustice, discrimination, verbal and physical violence, corruption, lies, and arrogance.

He insisted: It is necessary to crucify egoism, arrogance, envy, hatred, and the desire for vengeance, and we must open our arms for pardon and reconciliation! Arizmendi noted: Chiapas can rise! Mexico can rise!

For the first time in three months, hundreds of people met at the main plaza. More than to mark the initiation of the traditional fair, the meeting was highlighted by the hope of creating a fitting climate to enable peace to dwell forever in San Cristobal.

The collective effort carried out during Easter week was designed to ease the tense climate, and it had a tranquilizing effect that caused faith to return. The smile of the fair's queen, "Maria de la Luz," was enough to raise the spirit of those who believe that it will be difficult to smile again in San Cristobal de las Casas.

Shortly after placing the crown on and delivering the scepter to the queen of the fair, Governor Javier Lopez Moreno pleaded for San Cristobal to become "to a greater extent a center of civilized coexistence among ethnic groups, religions, and ideologies."

He said the city is not simply a common meeting ground for the outlying communities. He said he hoped that "this fair will be an sign, an announcement of what is to come. A peace that is tolled by the bells and nurtured enthusiastically by us is an active peace for all."

## Peace Commissioner Meets State Officials

*PA1004024094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[From the "ACIR Radio News" Newscast]

[Text] The current big question is: What is happening to peace in Chiapas? The answer remains silence. After 15 days away, Peace and Reconciliation Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis has returned to Chiapas. Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno seems worried because the situation is worsening with regard to the governability of the state. Juan Carlos Santoyo has this to report.

[Begin recording] [Santoyo] It was a very important meeting, called to evaluate state governmental actions, to strengthen peace negotiations. What is the meaning of this meeting? Manuel Camacho Solis readdressed the Chiapas issue, especially its peace process, for the first time after 23 years, I mean, after 15 days.

The first person to speak at the meeting was the Chiapas attorney general; the Chiapas Supreme Court of Justice president and the Chiapas Congress president also spoke. The three Chiapas Government officials pointed out that the main thing to do is to reform the Constitution, as well as state laws ranging from labor to agricultural justice. They also talked about the creation of an Indian Rights Ombudsman's Office. All these issues combined will make the Javier Lopez Moreno government submit more than 13 draft bills to the state congress. These drafts will probably be made public on 12 April.

The meeting laid down the guidelines for the governor to air a panorama that, as you already mentioned, is very difficult for Chiapas. Lopez Moreno said: We are experiencing a crisis; better yet, the crisis already experienced us. This crisis can belittle or change us should we behave as we usually do; that is, should we behave as though nothing happened.

Governor Lopez added: What we are currently facing is not the exception to what usually happens. The state government is reacting according to nonconformities, because we cannot halt legitimate rebelliousness, or at least, we cannot constrain social energy. Agricultural laws are about to be modified to improve the daily life of Chiapas residents. Searching for peace must mean that all Chiapas social sectors have to truly work hard. He said something very important: In view of what the EZLN [Zapatista National Liberation Front] did, it is imperative to humanize power in Chiapas. This will constitute a great lesson for all federal government and presidential candidates. Governor Lopez concluded that

humanizing power means accepting that power must be shared and that people must be patiently listened to, especially those who complain and stage protests. However, for Javier Lopez Moreno, the important aspect of the meeting was the message he delivered to the peace commissioner:

[Lopez] Mr. Manuel Camacho Solis: We are ready; we are already moving forward, and so are the commitments. This is how we are heeding social complaints to embark on an authentic agrarian justice, on flesh and bone human rights, on effective law enforcement, and on holding honest elections. These are democratic commitments that will lead us to reach genuine peace. We Chiapas residents will continue to comply with such commitments. Now, it is your turn. We ask you to resume negotiations with the EZLN as soon as possible; we ask Bishop Samuel Ruiz to resume his great efforts. The truce is good, but peace is urgently needed. Uncertainty and unfounded reports have saturated our atmosphere since the aberrant murder of Luis Donaldo Colosio; only peace will end ambiguity.

No Chiapas resident wants hostilities to return. Reinstating war would be even worse, because we will lose everything, including our future, should weapons replace understanding. We refuse to accept the silence of rifles; we want them to disappear for good. This is why we are struggling for justice to reemerge. We have no time to waste. No one must lose the war; we all must win peace. Commissioner Camacho, you have the last word; it is your turn. [end recording]

### Denies Withdrawing From Peace Process

*PA1004025694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Report by Juan Carlos Santollo; from the "Radio ACIR Newscast"]

[Text] In answer to questions on whether he plans to continue as part of the pacification process, Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, said the following:

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] The governor [Javier Lopez Moreno] has told me: We are elated with just hearing you say that there is no cease-fire process that has lasted longer than the one in Chiapas. We acknowledge that this is a very significant step which, during the past decade, did not occur in any Central American nation, or with any similar armed group. However this not the only thing we want. We are calling for and demanding more. In this respect I say to the governor, and at the same time answer a question that is floating around, that yours truly has no intention of retreating to any embassy. Yours truly plans to remain in Mexico, and wants to remain in Chiapas because he believes that the people who are doing things here are doing it in good faith and intelligently. Yours truly also believes that there are issues to be solved here that are worth solving, and because he intends to continue working for peace. [end recording]

Without any doubt, one of the important questions surrounding this issue is related to when the peace talks will resume. When will the EZLN [Zapatista National Liberation Army]; peace mediator Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas; and Special Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis once again sit at a negotiating table? In this respect, Camacho Solis' reply was as follows:

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] I am also aware that this is the most important effort we can make because by safeguarding the negotiation process with the EZLN, and respecting their decisionmaking process, I am sure that in the next few weeks we will be able to take further and firm steps to ensure lasting peace. [applause] Who will accomplish this? The peace commissioner? No. The mediator? No. This will be accomplished by all of us. Every individual, every household that can come up with an answer. When abuses by the authorities are amended, then we already have someone who is working for peace. Every resolution by a magistrate or a judge that carries this same spirit, is already supporting the peace process. [end recording]

Manuel Camacho Solis indicated that by adding all these dispositions, and with the support of the president of the republic, as well as all the political forces committed to peace, there is no reason why progress in the Chiapas peace process cannot be made.

### EZLN's Marcos: No Conditions for Talks Exist

*PA1004171394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Apr (AFP)—Subcommander Marcos, the military chief of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN], says no conditions currently exist that permit the resumption of peace talks with the government or allow the EZLN to continue consultations within the Indian communities on the government's proposals, according to today's edition of LA JORNADA.

The newspaper quoted the rebel leader as saying: "There is movement among Mexican Army troops to cut off EZLN forces in the zone" in which the EZLN maintains control over various communities.

The guerrillas and the government held their first round of talks 21 February-1 March. At the conclusion of the talks, the two sides issued a list of 32 commitments (rebel demands and government proposals). The EZLN then opened discussions among the Indian communities on the government's proposals, but this activity was suspended following the 23 March assassination of ruling party presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio.

Marcos indicated that in order for the consultations to resume, "it is necessary for the Army to reduce its

presence and for the ranchers, businessmen, and politicians to suppress their belligerence, at least to the level that existed before the dialogue."

Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis recently said peace talks could resume within the next few weeks, but Marcos insists that new conditions are required. The guerrillas have denounced a series of alleged aggressions by the cattlemen, including the killing of an EZLN member by a rancher in Altamirano Municipality.

## EZLN Leader Marcos on Peace Talks, Zedillo

*PA0904180994 Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish 7 Apr 94 p 13A*

[Report on interview with EZLN Subcommander Marcos by Jesusa Cervantes; from the "jungles of Chiapas"; date not given]

[Text] If Manuel Camacho Solis is removed from the Chiapas peace negotiations, the National Zapatist Liberation Army [EZLN] will break off its dialogue with the government, according to the EZLN's Subcommander Marcos.

Asked about the latest turn of events in the nation, including the slaying of Luis Donaldo Colosio and the nomination of presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, Subcommander Marcos said the government is either preparing for the Institutional Revolutionary Party's [PRI] honorable defeat or for a great electoral fraud.

As for the peace commissioner, Marcos said his removal would bog down efforts to find a peaceful, political solution to the armed conflict that began on 1 January. The subcommander said: "The removal of Camacho from the peace talks would force a break in the dialogue. If they bring in someone else, we would have to approve him, just as we approved Camacho, subjecting him to the same process. The worst part of all this, however, would be that the whole process would drag on and on."

Marcos, who is in charge of the EZLN's military strategy, said that at the start of the peace talks, the EZLN thought the government would force it into a confrontation with belligerent groups of businessmen and ranchers in Chiapas, while ordering the Mexican Army to sit on the sidelines and watch.

"At that time, we thought there was a move afoot against Camacho. We thought attempts were being made to force an impasse in the dialogue and to force a break in the cease-fire in order that the political cost would fall on Camacho at a time when there was talk that he might decide to become a presidential candidate," Marcos pointed out. "Then came the incident with Colosio, and we thought there were plans to blame us for the assassination, for ordering his assassination, or for creating an atmosphere of violence leading to his assassination. We thought military actions against us would start at that time," he added.

Subcommander Marcos argued that Colosio Murrieta's assassination was ordered from within the government, which now appears as the only entity capable of guaranteeing order and of preventing this type of violence from continuing.

"The government knew of the attack; perhaps it knew about it but allowed it to happen because Colosio's commitment to security was too uncertain at a time when the country was not calm," he said.

"On one hand, I think the state and Salinas greatly benefited from Colosio's death, but on the other, they were hurt by the ensuing political instability and the loss of international prestige, because they proved they were unable to protect their own candidate. It certainly left Camacho Solis out of the picture," Marcos said. He added that with the assassination of the PRI candidate, the PRI not only took Camacho out of the political picture, but it also recovered the newspaper headlines—an ideological priority. Finally, he said, the PRI came to be viewed as a victim instead of an aggressor.

With Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon's nomination, Subcommander Marcos said he believes it is doubtful that Zedillo will be able to conduct a strong political campaign and win the election. "When Colosio was killed, we thought it would weaken Camacho's position and the government's alleged negotiating position, but when Zedillo entered the race, it did not make sense because with this candidate the PRI will not be able to fend off the other contenders," he said.

"If the PRI continues with Zedillo, of whom nothing is known other than the textbook scandal and the fraud committed in Chiapas by his relatives, then only two things are possible: Either the government is preparing for the PRI's honorable defeat or it is preparing a very, very large fraud—an unprecedented fraud," he said.

What does not make sense, the subcommander said, is to plan an electoral fraud, because then the entire nation would rise up, the problem could no longer be blamed on the EZLN or Aburto, and the war would definitely continue. If the PRI is trying to open the door for democracy in the political arena, it should have nominated a transitional candidate, and, in this case, the logical candidate would have been Camacho Solis.

Marcos said: "If the PRI would ultimately decide to share power or agree to a democratic opening in the electoral game, the logical thing would be for it to nominate a transitional candidate, in this case a solidarity candidate. The logical one would be Camacho, despite everything the PRI might want to impose on Camacho following Colosio's death."

He explained, "Camacho would be the logical candidate because he has insisted that he would maintain Salinas' economic project." The subcommander said, however, that a political change would lead to a change in economic policy, which would contradict the neoliberals.

He added: "No one can be a political democrat and an economic tyrant. Reforms within the same general guidelines would have to be made. Reforms in social spending and income distribution would have to be made, but this would run against neoliberal thinking," he said.

The subcommander said he doubts a Camacho Solis candidacy is possible at this time: "I do not know if he will decide to run. I have not seen him for a long time, but I think that ultimately the decision will not be his to make. He is waiting for a signal from someone, perhaps from a sector within the PRI or Salinas himself. At any rate, he will let time pass, but I do not think it will be until 21 July [date as published]."

Finally, as for the invitation presented to the presidential candidates before Colosio's assassination to visit EZLN territory, the rebel subcommander said the situation has changed in accordance with what the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command has already announced. However, Marcos added, it might be possible for the EZLN to obtain safe conduct guarantees for its delegates so they can participate in a meeting with the candidates or for the presidential candidates to send representatives to EZLN-held areas.

Marcos said: "We had planned to invite the candidates here, but we have changed our minds. This is because if they are shot while they are in this region of the country, we would be blamed for it. Can you imagine what would happen if they were to be shot here?"

Marcos added: "What we could do is to request safe conduct guarantees so that some committee delegates could participate in a meeting at a certain place and talk with the candidates, or for the candidates to send representatives so that they could outline their positions regarding the agreements presented by the government in case these agreements are accepted by the EZLN."

## EZLN Leader Killed; Marcos Confirms Cease-Fire

*PA0904214694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2100 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Apr (DPA)—A leader of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) was killed yesterday by a rancher in Altamirano municipality, Chiapas State, the EZLN Clandestine Revolutionary Committee reported today.

In a statement published by the EXCELSIOR News Agency, guerrilla spokesman Subcommander Marcos said this action contradicts the alleged climate of peace to which Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, has referred. Nevertheless, the cease-fire will be maintained.

According to the statement, the EZLN leader went with a companion to see a parcel of land to farm. When they arrived at the site, they were met with shots fired by the ranch owner's son. The leader's companion was wounded.

## EZLN Members Killed in Clashes

*PA1104141394 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1310 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Five members of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] were killed in a clash with cattlemen in Comitan, Chiapas. In San Cristobal de las Casas, EZLN forces demanded the release of 21 civilians accused of being EZLN members from Cerro Hueco Prison. Patricial Serrano filed this report:

[Serrano] Five EZLN members were killed during three clashes in Comitan Municipality, Chiapas States. The incidents occurred when EZLN members trespassed on the ranchers' properties to rustle cattle. The ranchers reacted immediately to save their property and the lives of their families.

Upon being informed of these events, Subcommander Marcos confirmed from an undisclosed location in Lacandon jungle that indeed two [number as heard] EZLN supporters were killed in clashes with ranchers.

Meanwhile in San Cristobal de las Casas, the EZLN demanded the release of 21 civilians from El Cerezo de Cerro Hueco Prison who were arrested on suspicion of being EZLN members. From that place, Subcommander Marcos also said that keeping these innocent individuals in jail is an obstacle to peace talks with the federal government. Marcos stated that the indiscriminate arrest of civilians on unfounded charges that they are members of the EZLN is an arbitrary action.

Ceremonies, parades, marches, and festivities were held in Chiapas on Sunday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the death of revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata.

## EZLN Demands Release of Imprisoned Civilians

*PA1004033694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2152 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas (Mexico), 9 Apr (EFE)—Today the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) demanded the release of 21 civilians imprisoned since January, charged with being Zapatistas.

"We have learned that the 21 civilians are confined at the Cerro Hueco prison, unfairly charged with being members of our army; furthermore the EZLN leadership hereby declares that none of its members are currently in any of the country's prisons," the rebel Subcommander Marcos stated. In a communique signed by the subcommander published today by some morning newspapers in the State of Chiapas, southeastern Mexico, the EZLN insists that it has verified its list of fighters and the names of the persons currently in prison do not appear on the list.

The 21 civilians were taken prisoner on 2 January, during the armed clashes between the Army and the rebels. In addition, they were all charged with being EZLN members, accusations which they have all repeatedly denied. Since last week, the civilians detained at the Cerro Hueco prison near Tuxtla Gutierrez began a hunger strike demanding that the charges be withdrawn and they be released.

The civilians are also demanding an investigation and that penalties be imposed on a group of soldiers who, according to the prisoners, proceeded to beat them, tied their hands and feet, and held them isolated and without food for several days before throwing them in jail.

According to Marcos "to continue holding these innocent persons in jail is an obstacle to continuing the peace process and dialogue with the federal government." Finally, Marcos indicated that the EZLN believes that with these detentions "there is a clear intention to cover up arbitrary actions in the indiscriminate arrest of civilians during the conflict and accusing them, without any basis whatsoever, of being members of our army."

### Communique Demands Release

*PA1004154294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Report by Juan Carlos Santoyo from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] After several weeks of silence, the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] issued another communique on 7 April. The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the EZLN issued a communique dated 7 April, which includes five basic points.

The first point states that in recent days EZLN members have learned that 21 civilians are being held at Cerro Hueco Penitentiary and are wrongfully accused of being EZLN members.

The second point states that following the release of the EZLN fighters, who are under arrest in Chihuahua, the EZLN has no other guerrillas in government prisons.

The third point states that the EZLN General Command has carefully reviewed its lists of combatants and that the names of those who are being wrongfully detained at Cerro Hueco Penitentiary are not on those lists.

In the fourth point, the EZLN denounces government plans to arbitrarily cover up the indiscriminate arrest of civilians during the conflict by accusing them without proof of belonging to to the EZLN.

In the fifth point, which is a warning to the authorities, the EZLN warns that if these 21 prisoners continue to be held, the detentions will be an obstacle to continuing the dialogue process, because the EZLN cannot speak of peace if the government speaks of war with its actions.

It also notes that the CCRI-CG communique is signed by Subcommander Marcos.

### Peasants Plan Protests in Chiapas To Mark Zapata's Death

*PA1004161394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1514 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[From the "Face to Face" newscast]

[Text] Today marks the 75th anniversary of Emiliano Zapata's death. There will be a number of ceremonies, including one in Morelos State. The president will attend this morning's ceremony in Cuernavaca, Morelos State. There will be another in Zacatepec this afternoon. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Party of the Democratic Revolution presidential candidate, will attend the ceremony in Zacatepec.

As for the anniversary, there will be a demonstration in Mexico City. Some 70 peasant organizations will stage a march, which will end in El Zocalo, downtown Mexico City. They will declare a seven-day sitdown strike here to demand the repeal of Article 27 of the Constitution.

Meanwhile, there will be some celebrations, quote, in Chiapas, unquote. A report in REFORMA newspaper adds: The Indian and Peasant State Committee will stage marches, conduct motorcades, seize land, hold regional sitdown strikes, take over public buildings, and hold regional gatherings in the municipalities of Tapachula, Palenque, San Cristobal de las Casas, and Comitan. This is how the 75th anniversary of Emiliano Zapata's death will be commemorated.

### Thousands of Peasants, Workers Commemorate Zapata

*PA1004213994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2003 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Apr (DPA)—Thousands of Mexicans marched today in the capital city to commemorate revolutionary peasant Emiliano Zapata, murdered 75 years ago.

With a march along Reforma Central Avenue to the Zocalo, the demonstration—which included peasant organizations from all over Mexico as well as leftist groups based in the capital city—also protested the reforms made to Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution which now allows the privatization of the so called "land tenures" [ejidos].

Zapata, born in the State of Morelos, south of Mexico City, was a leading figure during the Mexican revolution (1910-1917). He became famous as a result of his cry "land and liberty" as well as because he demanded the distribution of large estates among the peasants. He was murdered in an ambush on 10 April 1919.

Since this Mexican revolutionary and national hero's name was adopted by the Zapatista National Liberation

Army (EZLN), some of the protesters openly expressed their support for the Chiapas guerrilla group that took up arms on 1 January 1994. Several of the signs held by the protesters read: "Zapata lives in the EZLN." Other signs carried the revolutionary hero's image, and expressed support for a "Government by the EZLN, the workers, peasants, and people's organizations." In addition to shouts such as "Here, there, Zapata will prevail," there were also shouts condemning the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico, the United States, and Canada which entered into effect this year.

In the meantime, during a commemoration ceremony that took place at the Topanzolco Municipal Auditorium in Morelos, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that many of Zapata's aspirations have come through. "However, Mexico changed, new problems arose as well as new opportunities, the Mexican rural sector changed, and our peasants also changed," Salinas pointed out in justifying the much criticized reforms to Article 27 of the Constitution which now allows the privatization of state land tenures established by the Mexican agrarian reform.

The president highlighted that "prior to modifying Article 27 of the Constitution, we proceeded to discuss it exhaustively with the peasant organizations." Likewise, the president ruled out fears related to the reappearance of large estates. "The large estates will not reappear, they disappeared from our country's history," the president indicated.

### March in Capital Ends Without Incident

*PA1104005194 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[From the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Members of peasant, Indian, and mass organizations from various states marched today from the Altar to the Fatherland Monument to the Zocalo to mark the 75th anniversary of the death of General Emiliano Zapata. The march, which began at 1110 and ended at 1420, was held without incident. Walls along the route were painted with social demands. The march passed along important Mexico City avenues such as Reforma, Insurgentes, and Juarez. The police reported that some 300 officers were deployed along the route to maintain order and divert traffic.

## Costa Rica

### Minister Decries DEA Handling of Bolivian

*PA0804150394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2229 GMT 5 Apr 94*

[Text] San Jose, 5 Mar [date as received] (NOTIMEX)—Luis Fishman, the Costa Rican government and public security minister, said today that the DEA had brought alleged Bolivian drug kingpin Edgar Fernandez Lozcano into the country.

DEA officials brought Fernandez Lozcano into the country without consulting local authorities, on a private flight on 16 March, Minister Fishman said at joint news conference with Rafael Angel Guillen, director of the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ).

Fishman and Guillen ended 12 days of silence when Attorney General Jose Maria Tijerino announced that he was initiating an investigation on "the mysterious conditions under which the South American citizen entered" the country.

Bolivian drug officials believe Fernandez Lozcano to be the right-hand man of Isaac "Oso" Chavarria's—Bolivia's most prominent drug trafficker—who is charged with bribing important politicians in that South American country.

Fishman said the Bolivian drug trafficker "arrived in Costa Rica aboard a U.S. Government plane with registration number N55949."

The authorities explained that Bolivians do not require a visa to enter Costa Rican territory, but they asserted that "we do not know why (the Costa Rican Government) was not informed of this matter."

According to the Costa Rican officials, the drug kingpin stayed at the luxurious San Jose Palace Hotel accompanied by DEA officials and three unidentified Bolivian police officers.

Fishman said that "the DEA's actions are a blatant abuse by this organization" because they did not report Fernandez Lozcano's arrival to Costa Rican authorities.

Fishman said that Roberto Mendez, director of the Drug Investigation and Control Center, has requested an explanation of DEA activities from the DEA head in this country. The minister also warned that "we will not allow any more of their arbitrary actions."

Fishman revealed that Fernandez Lozcano had left for the United States, escorted by DEA officials, on TACA Airlines flight 40 last Sunday.

The Costa Rican officials said DEA officials had taken Fernandez from Bolivia to Panama, where local authorities denied him entry because he did not have a visa. They thus decided to bring him to Costa Rica, where Bolivians do not need a visa.

The minister justified his office's previous silence on the case by saying that "Fernandez is a great witness who apparently knows a lot about the ties between drug traffickers and politicians in his country. That is why we could not reveal the details of his stay in Costa Rica."

## El Salvador

### ARENA Seeks Recount of Votes in San Salvador

*PA1004134094 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Apr 94 p 5*

[Text] Representatives from ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] have asked the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) to recheck the vote count in the presidential election and correct mistakes that have been observed.

Dr. Sergio Mena Mendez, ARENA's legal representative, presented to the TSE General Secretariat a petition to investigate the vote count because, according to ARENA's count, there is a difference of more than 38,000 votes that cannot be found anywhere.

Mena Mendez said his party knows perfectly well that the deadline to contest the election results has expired, and that it only wants the TSE to correct the mistakes that were made to prevent them from being repeated in the runoff.

Mena Mendez said that after the final results of the vote count for deputies were disclosed, members of ARENA discovered an inexplicable difference of more than 38,000 votes between the figures for deputies and the figures for president.

According to party representatives, this difference of 38,000 votes resulted from "a computation error at a specific number of voting tables in San Salvador Municipality; it is an error that affects all of the parties."

Mena Mendez said the party does not know where the error could have occurred, and this is precisely what it is asking the TSE to investigate.

As is well-known, all of the polling stations were manned by a representative from each party, and because of this, it is nearly inconceivable that more than 38,000 votes could have been lost, including the vote count certificates that are signed by each of the party representatives.

Mena Mendez argues that there were more votes for deputies than for president which, according to ARENA, is unusual. Nevertheless, the trend is proportional in terms votes garnered by the respective parties. In other words, all of the parties received more votes for deputies than for president.

Meanwhile, TSE President Dr. Luis Arturo Zaldivar said the deadline to contest the presidential election results has already expired, adding that ARENA's request is "completely out of place."

Furthermore, he denied that such a mistake occurred at the TSE computation center.

Following is a breakdown in the different number of voters announced by ARENA in the election for mayors, deputies, and president in San Salvador Municipality:

| Political Party | Mayoral election | Deputy election | Presidential election |
|---|---|---|---|
| ARENA | 77,901 | 80,968 | 69,903 |
| Democratic Convergence | 4,968 | 9,492 | — |
| Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front | 38,848 | 42,856 | 38,156* |
| National Revolutionary Movement | 514 | 1,016 | — |
| Christian Democratic Party | 21,493 | 16,539 | 10,286 |
| National Conciliation Party | 13,136 | 4,504 | 2,145 |
| Authentic Christian Movement | 357 | 678 | 348 |
| Unity Movement | 2,835 | 4,267 | 2,575 |
| National Solidarity Movement | 741 | 1,061 | 643 |
| Valid votes | 160,793 | 161,381 | 127,487 |
| Contested | 117 | 152 | 100 |
| Annulled | 4,224 | 4,354 | 2,853 |
| Abstentions | 561 | 574 | 478 |
| Total voters | 165,695 | 166,461 | 127,487 |
| Difference in number of voters | | | |
| Total voters, mayoral elections | | | 165,695 |
| Total voters for president | | | 127,487 |
| Difference in voters | | | 38,208 |
| Total voters for deputies | | | 166,461 |
| Total voters for president | | | 127,487 |
| Difference in voters | | | 38,974 |

* Votes received by FMLN-CD-MNR coalition for presidential election

## ARENA Candidate Said Hospitalized in U.S.

*PA0804201794 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[From the "First Delivery" newscast]

[Text] Inhabitants of San Miguel and La Union Departments have called this station to deny that Armando Calderon Sol visited these departments as reported by a television station. The televised report showed Calderon Sol campaigning in the Belen neighborhood, at San Miguel's Student Center, and in El Pilon, La Union Department.

Our sources, meanwhile, say they only saw Dr. Borgo Bustamante and Guadalupe Sorto. On 6 April, Calderon Sol was supposed to have met with members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and Dr. Ruben Zamora at El Presidente Hotel, but he failed to show up. Several government officials maintained that the ruling party candidate was visiting eastern El Salvador, but others said he was in the western region.

The public disappearance of the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] candidate, along with the designs of certain media to show Calderon Sol in places he has not been, reinforce unofficial reports that Calderon Sol is in a hospital outside of the country. Diplomatic sources who asked not to be identified noted that last weekend Calderon Sol had a nervous breakdown that prompted him to severely beat his wife, Elizabeth de Calderon Sol, and this is why he is in a hospital in New Orleans.

## FMLN Urges UN for Help in Fulfilling Accords

*PA0904022494 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 5 Apr 94 p 24*

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] today denounced serious distortions in the fulfillment of the peace agreements, and expressed the fear that a failure to fulfill pending agreements may cause social instability. The FMLN appealed to the UN secretary general for "a stronger reaction" to force the government to fulfill the agreements.

FMLN leader Leonel Gonzalez pointed out that the distortion of the peace agreements is part of the government's plan to merge the National Police [PN], which is to be dismantled, with the National Civilian Police [PNC] and the government's presentation of a new plan to step up the transfer of lands that would overlook over 20,000 former FMLN and Armed Forces fighters.

Regarding the government's failure to fulfill the agreements, Gonzalez pointed out that the constitutional reforms to modernize the administration of justice are pending, and he expressed the fear that on 1 May the new Legislative Assembly will be installed without the previous assembly having approved the reforms.

According to procedure, constitutional reforms must be approved and confirmed by two legislative assemblies and if they are not approved by the current assembly, changes in the judicial system will remain on hold until 2000. "The judicial system is obsolete, and it allows impunity to succeed," Gonzalez said, adding: "these are factors that could destabilize the country's transition process."

Another issue denounced by Gonzalez is that the government "has disregarded ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], and it has been unable to confirm how

many soldiers are in the PNC or to assess how much they earn." Expanding on the dismantling of the PN, Gonzalez said: "There is an agreement to dissolve the PN. A reduction in force program has already been presented, and 3,000 policemen were to be demobilized this month, but the government suspended the demobilization process, and we are aware of its plan to merge the PN and PNC in October." The possible merger of the PN and PNC and the incorporation into the PNC of the Narcotics Executive Unit and Commission for the Investigation of Crimes, means to Gonzalez that "by 1995 the seed of a new repressive body will exist."

To make the government fulfill the peace agreements, Gonzalez has proposed that the United Nations and Group of Friends (Mexico, Spain, Venezuela, and Colombia) exert pressure on the government with a mandate from the Security Council. He added that the UN "must take firmer action."

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said yesterday that still pending are the reintegrations into society through the land transfers and constitutional reforms recommended by the Truth Commission. Ghali also pointed out the persistence of significant signs of reluctance to establish the PNC, which was a fundamental goal of the peace agreements between the government and FMLN. He added that there seems to be a desire to distance the formation of the PNC from the dismantling of the PN.

### FMLN Urges Fulfillment of Land Transfer Program

*PA1004155294 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has denounced the fact that the Land Transfer Program [PTT] for former guerrillas is at a standstill. Meanwhile, the United Nations has appealed to the government to resolve issues pending in the peace agreements.

Antonio Alvarez, of the FMLN's Secretariat of Agrarian Affairs, questioned President Cristiani's announcement regarding the deadline to fulfill this point of the peace agreements.

[Begin Alvarez recording] The current problem is that the implementation of the PTT remains at a standstill. Some 100 properties from the first phase have not been legalized. These properties would benefit 5,000 landowners and former guerrillas. To date, the first phase has not been completed and the second phase has not begun; it has not even begun.

In the second phase, there are 1,879 properties located primarily in Morazan and Chalatenango Departments. The properties in the second phase would benefit 20,000 landowners and former fighters who are still awaiting the legal transfer of lands. I am talking about 111,000 manzanas.

The government pledged to guarantee the transfer of 1,300 properties in Morazan and Chalatenango after noting it had encountered judicial and legal difficulties in registering them. Their registration would require an exceptional judicial, legal decree which the government promised that the Legislative Assembly would approve, but to date this has not happened. Therefore, it is impossible for these 1,300 properties to be legalized.

The delays in the first and second phases involve 1,989 properties and 20,000 landowners and former fighters. Therefore, I would characterize as incredible and unrealistic President Cristiani's remarks to the effect that by 31 May the PTT will have concluded. He knows perfectly well that this assertion is neither true nor realistic. We believe this program will take much longer. [end recording]

Alvarez said the government's land transfer proposal does not take into consideration the UN's stipulations regarding the number of beneficiaries.

[Begin Alvarez recording] We maintain that the government must adhere to the figure established in the UN General Secretary's 13 October 1992 proposal, which is 32,500. The problem is that the government has registered less landowners than the 32,500 stated in the UN secretary general's proposal. Therefore, there are 6,500 landowners who are living on properties that have owners whose names can be verified, who have not been registered by the government, and who, therefore, have been excluded from the government's lists. [end recording]

To this end, the FMLN representative gave assurances that this situation will foster social unrest. He added that to date the government has not provided any loans to the former fighters, which will hinder the country's next agrarian cycle.

## Guatemala

### De Leon Urges U.S. To Promote Peace Accord

*PA0904165894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1519 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has urged U.S. congressmen to pressure the guerrillas and the U.S. Government to ensure compliance with human rights agreements and the signing of a firm and lasting peace agreement.

Government spokesman Felix Loarca today said a group of U.S. congressional advisers and officials headed by Robert White met privately with De Leon. Loarca added that the president and the U.S. officials discussed the

human rights situation, the peace process, and the struggle against abject poverty that affects eight out of every 10 Guatemalans.

The congressional advisers asked the government to outline ways in which the U.S. Congress might help achieve the signing of a peace agreement. In response, De Leon urged them to put pressure on their government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrillas, Loarca said. The U.S. politicians, who also met with Peace Commission President Hector Rosada, were here on a private visit, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, former U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala Thomas Stroock described the human rights situation in this country as being "serious," and he added that the future remains "uncertain" because of a wave of violence. Stroock arrived in the Guatemalan capital on Friday to receive the "Order of Quetzal, Great Cross Grade," which President Ramiro de Leon conferred upon him last night for his efforts to strengthen relations between the two countries.

The diplomat said he is "surprised" by the meager flow of tourists into this country, noting that some U.S. citizens have canceled trips because of prevailing security problems. Stroock recalled that in 1990 his government suspended military aid because of constant human rights violations, and specifically because of the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine at the hands of Army members.

In the wake of the political violence, the Guatemalan Congress has urged the United Nations to appoint a special rapporteur, but Rosada said the verification mechanism outlined in an agreement signed with the URNG is more efficient. Rosada contended that the deputies were showing their "ignorance" by making this request, because a rapporteur is tantamount to receiving a condemnation.

Foreign Minister Maritza Ruiz said the request for a rapporteur cannot be viewed as an isolated issue, but instead should be viewed within the general context of the situation. Ruiz thinks it will be difficult for the United Nations to appoint a rapporteur because the Commission on Human Rights ended its session in February. During its past session, the commission decided to extend the mandate of Argentine adviser Monica Pinto in light of the efforts being made by the government in the area of human rights.

### Presidency Opposes Request for UN Rapporteur

*PA0904191994 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 2*

[Text] The executive branch said yesterday it firmly disagrees with a request from Congress to urgently seek the appointment of a UN rapporteur for the country.

Even though he recognizes the Congress' right to make the request and respects the congressional resolution, presidential spokesman Felix Loarca reiterated that the resolution runs counter to what has been determined by the international community.

He noted that the 50th Session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, maintained the position of appointing an independent expert adviser for Guatemala, ruling out the possibility of appointing a rapporteur or other drastic action in recognition of the government's efforts.

Loarca said the government's intentions and steps to consolidate democracy and to continue with the national peace and reconciliation process are clear to the people and the international community, and, therefore, the call from Congress runs counter to this.

As for the congressional decision to condemn the executive for the attack on Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla, he said he does not have any substantive comments to make because he believes the people can draw their own conclusions after the government showed clear signs of its concerns to guarantee the safety of Guatemalan citizens.

He said a series of problems have been generated in the country over the past three decades; in turn, it is unfair to blame this government for the situation when its democratic commitment has been demonstrated through abundant proof and evidence.

He said Congress sometimes overlooks the scope of the problem and people start thinking we have a magic wand to solve this problem, when, in actuality, it has been less than a year since we received a government facing one of its worst crises ever.

As for death threats against other deputies, Loarca said the government condemns all types of violence, regardless of who is carrying it out. Likewise, he called upon those people promoting these kinds of actions to reflect on the serious damage they are inflicting on the democratic reconciliation process.

### President To Use 'Firm Hand' Against Violence

*PA0904025094 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2207 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 8 Mar [date as received] (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio announced today that he will act with a "firm hand" against the terrorists, whom he labeled "Neanderthals" who started a wave of political violence in the country. He also dismissed the possibility of decreeing a state of emergency.

"Unfortunately, there are people in Guatemala who think like Neanderthals, and for many years they have fought ideas with bullets, not with words," he said. Upon reiterating his condemnation of the murder of Constitutional Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez on 1

April and the attack against Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla on Wednesday, De Leon emphasized that he is "worried" about the recent violence.

"The government rejects any kind of violence and will act strongly to counter it," the president told reporters. He added that security forces have been given precise instructions to get to the bottom of their investigations and find the people responsible for Gonzalez's murder and the attack against Chinchilla.

De Leon pointed out that Guatemala must enter without further delay a phase of reconciliation to stop the violence and the civil war that began in 1960 so it can achieve welfare and social development. The president asked the groups causing the violence to reconsider and reflect on the "serious damage" they are doing the country through their actions. "It is not violence but dialogue that will solve our problems," the president emphasized. [passage omitted]

### President Requests Army Help

*PA0904213894 Paris AFP in Spanish 2036 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Report by Gonzalo Marroquin]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 9 Apr (AFP)—A wave of violence in Guatemala, which intensified over the past few weeks, has forced President Ramiro De Leon Carpio to request intervention by the Army, which will "take to the streets" to support the police as part of a government security plan.

Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez today confirmed to AFP that the Army is willing to participate in the struggle against violence, "which has surpassed the limits of normalcy," and he explained that a rapid deployment platoon will be created to support the National Police.

Enriquez and Government Minister Danilo Parinello yesterday addressed Congress to explain the measures that will be implemented to counteract the wave of violence. [passage omitted]

### Human Rights Ombudsman Cites Antidemocracy Plot

*PA0804184694 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 7 Apr 94 p 3*

[Text] In an urgent communique following the attack against Deputy Chinchilla Vega, Human Rights Ombudsman Jorge Mario Garcia Laguardia reported the existence of an antidemocracy conspiracy and asked the government to use the constitutional mechanisms to stop the continuation of these events.

Upon condemning the attack against the deputy, Garcia said this incident demonstrates an attempt is being made to end the democratic system in the country. He added the attack represents an unjustifiable action, just like the assassination of Magistrate Epaminondas Gonzalez at a time when the government and URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] signed a global human rights accord.

The human rights ombudsman demanded the government of the Republic end this series of events aimed at disrupting the democratic regime. He asked the government to implement the constitutional mechanisms; that is, to have security forces comply with their duty.

### URNG Comments on Recent Violent Incidents

*PA1004221794 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Apr 94 p 42*

["Declaration" issued by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity General Command on 5 April; place not given]

[Text] The latest round of negotiations held in Puebla, Mexico, allowed the signing of three basic agreements in the negotiating process, such as the General Agreement on Human Rights, Timetable for the Negotiations, and the joint government-URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] declaration on the issue of a commission to clarify violations of human rights.

The serious events and incidents that have taken place in Guatemala after this signing demand that the URNG General Command address national and international opinion to:

**Communicate**

The great satisfaction with having signed the aforementioned agreements, which are the result of an intense and difficult process, and that they offer a solid and viable base for a serious, fair, and in-depth negotiation. [sentence as published]

A current General Agreement on Human Rights and its prompt verification concern the urgent needs of the country insofar as it covers the basic demands of Guatemalans and it opens the doors to a new phase in the negotiation process. Full compliance with this agreement creates the necessary conditions for all sectors of society to find solutions to the current problems.

That the value of the General Agreement on Human Rights must be evinced through its true implementation and compliance. In addition to the obligations pledged by the parties in signing this document, the right of the entire population to demand its respect and validity becomes legitimate.

This agreement has been made possible through our people's heroic toil, the substantial efforts and sacrifice of their organizations, which express, under totally adverse circumstances, their complaints and demands as well as the contribution of those who, understanding this situation, have abided by and supported it.

This pivotal agreement was also made possible thanks to the understanding and favorable reception of the international community, which with its statement and support helped advance it.

The General Agreement on Human Rights and the timetable agreement cover the entire content of the negotiation. They do not mean an end to the conflict, but they constitute a basic step in a process that calls for the participation and permanent mobilization of all sectors of society to achieve its true and practical significance.

Compliance with the General Agreement on Human Rights and the prompt establishment of the agreed verification mechanism by the United Nations constitute the first trial by fire of the process. The first aspect would make no sense in the absence of the second one.

**Warning**

Regarding rights and statements that are alarming and highly negative.

The heinous assassination of Constitutionality Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez on 1 April is condemnable and, in the context of the signing of a human rights agreement, constitutes a flagrant provocation of Guatemalan society and the international community.

The statement by President Ramiro de Leon Carpio immediately following the signing of the General Agreement on Human Rights does not demonstrate his commitment to comply with it, but rather his intention of offering the URNG militants amnesty. This action conveys the existing contradictions, contravenes the negotiation process, and calls into question his political will to conclude a negotiation that will bring a just and democratic peace.

The campaign of misinformation and distortion conducted by official and unofficial spokespersons before the signing of the General Agreement on Human Rights, and which continues to flagrantly seek to discredit the URNG—blaming it for actions that have been perpetrated by groups of the Army itself—reveal recalcitrant wills that oppose a fair political solution.

**Urges and Demands**

The government of President De Leon Carpio and the Army to comply with the General Agreement on Human Rights, thus returning the support and trust offered by the international community and the national public.

That the assassination of the Constitutionality Court president, an action that lies within the jurisdiction and scope of the security forces, where it originated, be cleared up as soon as possible.

The threat of imposing a state of exception is part, whatever its true or presumed justification, of a preconceived plan to limit the freedom of expression of civic and popular forces. Therefore, it is inadmissible and condemnable.

Fair play in the negotiation process is the fundamental condition for it to evolve. This is why the Army organizations must suspend the psychological war, and the president must not lend himself to maneuvers to discredit the URNG as its main counterpart in the negotiation process.

Nothing must be allowed to curtail the expression of Guatemala's civilian sectors. The international community plays a highly significant role in ensuring this freedom, and we urge it to express its solidarity.

[Signed] URNG General Staff: Comandante Rolando Moran; Comandante Pablo Monsanto; Comandante Gaspar Ilom; and Carlos Gonzales, secretary General of Guatemalan Labor Party Central Committee.

[Issued] 5 April 1994

## Honduras

### Army To Reinforce Nicaraguan Border

*PA1004193494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Mar [date as received] (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Army Chief General Luis Alonso Discua has ordered the reinforcement of the nation's border with Nicaragua and ordered troops to answer "with force" any armed groups of Nicaraguan recontras.

A clash with these groups left three people dead on 8 April. A Honduran corporal and two Nicaraguan guerrillas died in the clash between a recontra group and the 9th Infantry Battalion headquartered in Ojo de Agua in northeastern Honduras.

Colonel Hernan Seaman, 9th Infantry Battalion commander, told ACAN-EFE: "At dawn, the border had an increased military presence because of Gen. Discua's orders. He ordered us to use force and to repel the recontras to guarantee the safety of people residing along the border."

The officer said the armed Nicaraguans who entered the country "are criminal contra fighters who hid their weapons following their 1990 demobilization." He added: "They are currently attacking small businessmen, whom they targeted when the contras were in Honduras, and are murdering peasants, raping women, and raiding border towns."

According to a Honduran military report, some 12-15 men brandishing "AK-47's, FAL rifles, and RPG-7 grenade launchers" opened fire on an Army patrol on 8 April in the area of Chilamates along the Nicaraguan border. Seaman pointed out that Cpl. Santos Armando Dominguez, 21, died during the clash, as well as two "recontras"; other attackers were wounded and returned to their country. Cpl. Rodriguez was buried today in the eastern city of Danli with honors corresponding to a

"hero who died while carrying out his duties." He was posthumously promoted to sergeant.

Seaman also said that two weeks ago, two recontras attacked a Buenos Aires woman, whom they murdered by shooting her in the mouth after stealing her television and radio. They later fought with one of the victim's sons, who wounded one of the recontras with a machete. The other recontra then shot the son.

Col. Seaman added that Nicaraguan authorities were notified and that the two recontras were apprehended at a Nicaraguan border town. He said that thanks to the Nicaraguan authorities' cooperation, relatives of the slain woman will now be able to take the alleged perpetrators to court.

The Nicaraguan Sandinist People's Army (EPS) has already been notified of the 8 April incident between Honduran military personnel and an armed group that, according to Seaman, could be linked to the recontras' 3-80 Northern Front led by Jose Angel Talavera, a.k.a. "El Chacal." The armies of the two Central American countries are carrying out joint exercises along their common border to counter movements by armed groups in the area.

### Reina Calls Assassination Plot 'Gangsterism'

*PA1004041494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina said today that the alleged plot to assassinate him, hatched by fellow Honduran Luis Hernandez Sosa in complicity with three Nicaraguans, is "a case of gangsterism and drug trafficking."

Speaking briefly with reporters in the city of San Pedro Sula in northern Honduras, Reina pointed out that the conspirators initially intended to set a factory on fire but later thought it "a better deal to assassinate the president." "A white book is going to be opened to outline in detail everything that has happened in this case and the people will be informed," the Honduran president said.

Reina reiterated that this is a case of "gangsters or drug traffickers who came to Honduras to burn down a paint factory and then perpetrate a kidnapping, but it occurred to them that it might be a better deal to kill the Honduran president."

Reina's statements corroborated local media reports to the effect that Hernandez Sosa, who yesterday surrendered to the authorities accompanied by human rights leaders, is involved in drug trafficking. Hernandez Sosa, 30, was turned over to the police in Tegucigalpa, who were unaware of his whereabouts, after appearing in court escorted by members of the (government) National Human Rights Ombudsmanship.

The alleged conspirator, who is being held in a special cell at the National Penitentiary and under strict surveillance by Army troops, pointed out: "It is stupid to think that I wanted to murder the president." In a brief message he sent to the media today, Hernandez Sosa requested that his family be informed that he is well, has faith in God, and will emerge unblemished from this case.

The newspaper LA PRENSA reported today that Hernandez Sosa allegedly hatched the plot against the president to "slip away" from a group of alleged drug traffickers to whom he owed money. According to this report, Hernandez put the plan together with an unspecified quantity of money given to him by cocaine addicts, who were now demanding their money.

A government source today told ACAN-EFE that there is proof of Hernandez Sosa's drug trafficking activities, which will help resolve the alleged plot against President Reina, about which the Honduran authorities were notified on 13 March by the Nicaraguan Government.

Meanwhile, two of the three Nicaraguans implicated in the plot have been arrested by the Nicaraguan police, who have not made any disclosures regarding the depth of their involvement in the plot. The detainees are Luis Rene Quintero, who alerted the Nicaraguan authorities to the plot and helped thwart it, and Santiago Rivas who has denied any involvement. Meanwhile, Roger Arguello's whereabouts are unknown.

Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua said last Wednesday that the investigation of the plot has been "dashed" because of the information that has been leaked by the press.

Certain opposition politicians have not dismissed the possibility that the alleged plot against Reina is a "smoke screen" to distract the people's attention from the country's economic problems.

### Alleged Assassination Plot Leader Surrenders

*PA0804215594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The presumed mastermind of the plot to assassinate Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina has voluntarily surrendered to a court in this capital on 7 April, a judicial source has confirmed.

Luis Hernandez Sosa, 30, surprised the security corps when he arrived unexpectedly at the First Lower Criminal Court in Tegucigalpa at 1600 local (2200 GMT) accompanied by human rights leaders.

Sosa is linked to a plot to assassinate President Reina uncovered on 13 March when Nicaraguan citizen Luis Rene Quintero confessed his participation to the Nicaraguan Government Ministry.

According to Quintero, Honduran Hernandez Sosa hired him along with Nicaraguan citizens Santiago Rivas and

Roger Arguello to kill President Reina for $400,000, as confirmed by Honduran military spokesman Colonel Napoleon Santos Aguilar.

Members of the Human Rights Commissioner's Office and of the court confirmed to ACAN-EFE that Hernandez turned himself in to the First Lower Criminal Court in Tegucigalpa. In a brief statement to judicial reporters, Hernandez said he is "innocent" of all charges.

## Nicaragua

### Chamorro Confirms Humberto Ortega To Retire

*PA0904235594 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 pp 1, 14*

[Report by Cesar Ubeda Bravo]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro reiterated once again upon her return from Mexico that "EPS [Sandinist People's Army] General Humberto Ortega will step down in 1994," thus contradicting the assertions made concurrently by Ortega to local reporters at the National Assembly.

President Chamorro's remarks prove that military power is subject to civilian power and that, as she promised on 2 September and during her stay in Mexico, the Army chief will retire during the course of the year.

President Chamorro announced on 2 September 1993 at the Olof Palme [Convention Center] that Humberto Ortega would retire this year, which prompted a disrespectful reaction from the Ortega brothers toward the president in the presence of Latin American diplomats.

The presidential announcement, which created friction between the top military commanders and the government, forced the Executive Branch to convene an extraordinary emergency meeting at the OAS, where the government gained continent-wide support.

"Neither Humberto Ortega nor anyone in the Army will retire due to U.S. pressures or due to anyone's whim. Within the context of the 2 September announcement I will never retire," the EPS general emphatically stated after meeting yesterday with National Assembly President Dr. Luis Humberto Guzman to discuss topics related to the Military Organization Law. "I must clearly establish my position regarding the issue of my dismissal under pressure. To insist that Humberto Ortega will step down this year is to take a superficial view of the Military Organization Law," stressed Ortega after adding that he will not leave his post under those conditions "out of dignity and principle."

Ortega admitted that relations between the Executive Branch and EPS "have not been good" since the presidential announcement of 2 September. "This does not mean that I am enthroning myself as commander of the Armed Forces, but my departure will be within the framework of the Constitution and the Military Organization Law," the EPS chief added.

Article 144 of the Constitution establishes that the president of the Republic is the chief of state and government and commander in chief of the nation's Defense and Security Forces.

Questioned about the authority of President Chamorro, who is empowered to replace the EPS chief, Ortega replied evasively: "It is not a matter of the president removing the EPS chief nor of the Army removing the president as has historically occurred in Latin America, but we must work harmoniously for the good of the nation and avoid falling to extremes," he stated.

The high-ranking military officer indicated there is no consensus between the EPS and the Executive Branch on the aforementioned law. Nevertheless, he refused to specify the points of conflict. "The Army wants an agreement on this," he underscored. He said it is very probable that an agreement will be reached within 15 days so the law can be sent to the Legislative Branch. Ortega defiantly said that if no agreement is reached in these two weeks, "the EPS will see what course it will take," but he refrained from indicating what measures the military command would take.

He indicated that the Military Organization Law must have the consensus of the National Assembly, the EPS, and the Executive Branch. "We must draw up a strong and firm law among all the involved sectors," he said.

Meanwhile, National Assembly President Luis Humberto Guzman threatened to draw up this law if it does not reach the assembly soon. "If the Military Organization Law is not sent to the National Assembly in the first half of this year, we will proceed to draft it," he said.

Guzman said the Nicaraguan people were promised that this law would be drawn up in the first half of the year, and this promise will be kept. "We (the parliament) are not setting a deadline for the presentation of the Military Organization Law but one cannot wait forever," he stressed.

Regarding the removal of Humberto Ortega from the EPS, he was categoric in stating: "If the president announced that this year she would appoint a new EPS chief, that is what must happen. It does not merit discussion." "After talking with Ortega, the impression I have of him, is that he is aware that his position is temporary," Guzman said. This contrasts with Ortega's remarks to journalists. Guzman also denied that there is U.S. pressure for the removal of the Army chief.

### President Announces Credit Line With Mexico

*PA1104010294 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's 4-7 April official visit to Mexico resulted in the signing of a $10-million credit agreement as well as ensuring cooperation assistance programs in the health, social, welfare, and technical sectors.

Nicaragua and Mexico agreed that a free trade agreement between both nations would be signed before year's end. Likewise, the president indicated that both nations agreed that their respective finance ministers would meet shortly to discuss Nicaragua's debt with Mexico which it expects to repay with assets. [as heard]

After publicly expressing her gratitude to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for the attention received during her visit, as well as to all those persons who expressed their concern for her alleged fainting spell, she proceeded to explain all the activities carried out while in Mexico. The president also expressed enormous satisfaction with the results of her trip.

## Panama

### President Vows Not To Renegotiate Canal Treaties

*PA0804164994 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 2*

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said yesterday that under no circumstance will he consider renegotiating the Torrijos-Carter Treaties to prolong the existence of U.S. military bases in Panama beyond the year 2000.

Endara's statements followed the arrival of a U.S. mission headed by Republican Phil Crane. The U.S. delegation is in Panama to collect information from different economic and political sectors on the possibility of renegotiating the presence of U.S. military bases in Panama. According to the Panama Canal treaties, the last U.S. soldier has to leave national territory before midnight on 31 December 1999.

The U.S. delegation of about 25 people met with President Endara yesterday. The delegation also plans to meet with different business groups, as well as with the presidential candidates for the 8 May elections (Ernesto Perez Balladares, Ruben Blades, Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, and Ruben Blades [as published]).

"They visited me, and I told them I had a promise to fulfill for the people—a promise I made in the 1989 campaign, when I vowed that during my administration the renegotiation of the treaties will not be considered under any circumstance," the Panamanian president said.

According to Crane, prolonging the presence of U.S. military bases along the Panama Canal and in national territory will guarantee the security of both countries, as well as the security of the entire world. Crane also said Panama would benefit economically "because it will simply be a business deal between two countries."

### Legislator Calls U.S. Drug Report 'Unfair'

*PA0904014994 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] According to Legislator Leo Gonzalez, it is unfair for the U.S. Government to say that drug money laundering in Panama has increased. What must be done to dispel all doubts is to update all laws dealing with this matter.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Panama has done an excellent job. Customs, the PTJ [Technical Judicial Police], and the National Police have confiscated large amounts of drugs. A number of narcotraffickers have been captured, the country has cooperated with the U.S. Government, and the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] works unimpeded here, which I think is all right. We must admit, however, that we have lagged a little regarding money laundering. We have experienced trouble with money laundering because of our banking center and the Colon Free Zone. [end recording]

The Legislative Assembly is making every effort to approve the new drug bill as soon as possible. Gonzalez said it is urgent to pass money laundering legislation as soon as possible.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The only weak link in our legislation has to do with money laundering, for which we will have to pass special legislation. Yet we are moving in that direction. This fight against drug trafficking will not end overnight. The important thing is that we are taking firm steps to solve this problem. [end recording]

## Argentina

### Yeltsin Invites Menem to Summit on 'White Helmets'

*PY0904021494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2021 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Apr (NA)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has addressed a letter to his Argentine colleague, Carlos Menem, in which he expresses interest in Menem's proposal to create a UN corps of "white helmets."

Yeltsin also invited Menem to meet with him to evaluate the viability of the proposal.

This was revealed today by the Argentine chief of state himself, who indicated that he had received the Russian leader's letter on 7 March.

In remarks to a radio station Menem today explained that his proposal "is in keeping with the Church's social doctrine," and indicated that "I am trying to find answers as quickly as possible to the tremendous problems that are produced by the huge numbers of very poor people existing in the world."

"I received a letter from President Yeltsin on 7 April in which he expresses interest in the topic, and he has invited me to a summit between Argentina and Russia to exchange opinions on the matter," he revealed.

Menem said that "poverty has made impressive advances during the past few years, but in addition to poverty characterized by a lack of sustenance, we are mostly concerned with the poverty of scarce knowledge."

### Unofficial Election Results Favor Ruling Party

*PA1004225894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2129 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (EFE)—The ruling Justicialist Party (Peronist) won in the elections held today to choose 305 legislators tasked with reforming the Constitution, according to private polls held "by word of mouth." The Great Front [Frente Grande] center-left coalition won in the federal capital and moved up to third place in Buenos Aires Province, the country's most populated district.

It is reckoned that President Carlos Menem's Peronism won between 43 and 45 percent of the votes in the country's 24 districts. The Great Front won between 35-36.5 percent of the votes in the federal capital, followed by Peronism with 25.5 percent, and the Radical Civic Union (UCR) with 15 percent, according to polls conducted by Buenos Aires television stations.

The voting results in the federal capital mean a hard defeat for radicalism led by former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

Menem's Justicialist Party won 44.5 percent of the votes in Buenos Aires Province, followed by the UCR with 15.2 percent of the votes, the Great Front with 14.7 percent, and the right-wing Movement for Dignity and Independence [MODIN] with 11.7 percent.

### Further on Election Results

*PA1004225994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2137 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (EFE)—The Great Front center-left coalition was victorious in the federal capital in the elections held today in Argentina to elect the 305 legislators who will reform the Constitution. The coalition triumph, which the polls had predicted, surpassed estimates because according to the first unofficial poll it reached between 30-35 percent, according to several sources. The Justicialist Party (Peronist) dropped in Buenos Aires to a distant second with between 25-30 percent, and the UCR dropped to between 14-15 percent.

Carlos Alvarez, Great Front candidate for the federal capital, said that residents "voted for ethics and to warn the government that it cannot protect those responsible for corruption." The vote for punishment for Peronism and for the UCR is, according to Alvarez, "a reflection of the people's weariness and moral fatigue and who tell the government 'enough.'"

In the rest of the country the victory went to Peronism, with more than 40 percent, according to polls, while the UCR was second.

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 2201 on 10 April reports from Buenos Aires that the Argentine elections "ended this afternoon normally." The item adds that "according to Buenos Aires radio polls, about 70 percent of eligible voters participated, which comprises 21.64 million people with a right to vote." The item adds that the historic record shows an average voting attendance of 80 percent.]

### Menem Highlights Ruling Party Election Victory

*PA1104033994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0209 GMT 11 Apr 94*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr (DPA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem highlighted tonight (local time) the victory of the ruling Justicialist Party (PJ-Peronism) in the Constituent Assembly elections and forecast that the official party and its allies would have their own majority in the assembly, which will amend the Constitution during the middle of the year. During a news conference the president highlighted the PJ victory in 15 of the country's 23 provinces.

The Radical Civic Union (UCR), the main opposition party, which Peronism signed a pact with to reform the Constitution in common agreement, won in three districts. The other districts were won by provincial parties and the Great Front [Frente Grande—FG], a center-left coalition that rejected the pact.

Menem stressed that the agreement with the UCR will be "strictly adhered to" and that "there is not the slightest"

danger, despite the force's low performance [preceding word in English]. To his way of thinking, the UCR did well in the elections.

Regarding FG's victory strategy in the federal capital, Menem considers that this coalition "correctly interpreted" the message of the people of Buenos Aires. "We will attempt to make certain corrections, because this serves democracy," Menem said.

Nevertheless, Menem stressed that Argentina is "not the federal capital. [sentence as received] It is a victory that can be overcome and I want to congratulate them, but we have to reckon with it." Menem said that the FG, which he described as "Marxist and Trotskyite" in mid-campaign, can become an important force at the national level. He did not rule out dialogue with this sector of the opposition.

According to the president, the reports of alleged illegal dealings by the official Buenos Aires candidate Matilde Menendez did not affect results in the capital. "Argentines do not vote out of spite," he said.

Menem asked himself: "How are we, the winners, going to make self-criticism?" Menem was replying to a question about the bitter election experience, wherein the ruling party won 42 percent of the votes, an amount similar to what was attained in the October 1993 elections to renew parliament. In this connection Menem recalled that Peronism won in the provinces that suffered social outbreaks in 1993, such as Santiago del Estero or San Luis, where Governor Adolfo Rodriguez Saa was involved in a sexual scandal.

Regarding the 6 percent who cast blank votes, Menem said that this made no sense in a country where there is freedom and no restrictions.

## Bolivia

### Paz Zamora To Answer Commission's Questions

*PA1104001294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2134 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Report by Alejandro Varela]

[Text] La Paz, 10 Apr (EFE)—Fifteen days after acknowledging his wrongdoings, announcing his retirement from public life, and being politically "crucified" as a result of alleged links to drug trafficking, former Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora decided in the last few hours to break his silence and to defend himself.

On 26 March, in a televised address to the nation and flanked by a crucifix, former theology student Paz Zamora acknowledged "his mistakes, made in good faith" during his presidential administration (1989-1993). In addition, he announced his retirement from public life, and therefore, his decision to withdraw from running for president in the 1997 elections.

However, yesterday Paz Zamora formally requested to make a statement "as another citizen, without seeking protection in any privileges whatsoever," to the parliamentary commission that has proceeded to unmercifully question several fellow party members who occupied high-ranking positions during his administration.

According to Paz Zamora, his only "sin" that has been proven up to now is having cultivated a close and "naive" friendship with an alleged drug trafficker who goes by the name of Isac, surnamed Chavarria, and alias "Oso," whose habit is to constantly bite and gently suck a rosary in public.

As result of that friendship, Paz Zamora's main apostles and several leading members of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) were investigated and accused by the police of links with drug trafficking and cross-examined by a parliamentary commission.

All of the former public officials proceeded to defend themselves firmly and some of them, such as Susana Seleme, Paz Zamora's private secretary during his presidential term, even denied on more than three occasions being involved in anything. She even described herself as "the biggest victim of good faith mistakes" committed by the former president.

On the other hand, this past Friday the Bolivian Interior Ministry, apparently always well-advised by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), indicated its lack of solid evidence in its accusations against the MIR during an appearance before the parliamentary investigation commission this past Friday.

During cross-examination by the parliamentary commission, General Renato Lopez, head of the Special Front in the Struggle Against Drug Trafficking (FELCN), and Prosecutor Leopoldo Ramos, reluctantly admitted that their only evidence was based on unsubstantiated accusations made by confessed drug trafficker Carmelo "Meco" Dominguez, a former MIR activist arrested during Paz Zamora's administration and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Lopez and Ramos even accepted the possibility that they may have to publicly apologize to some MIR members because some of the accusations that were mysteriously leaked to the media now seem not to have any support whatsoever.

Nevertheless, up until today, most commentators and politicians in Bolivia agree in predicting the inevitable political demise of the MIR and its leader, Paz Zamora.

Parliamentary Investigation Commission President Edil Sandoval, has acknowledged Paz Zamora's request to be cross-examined and has announced that the former president could present his testimony this coming Tuesday. Based on the content of the letter sent to Sandoval, Paz Zamora insinuates that he would like to be cross- examined publicly in presence of the media, as

his fellow party members have been. Their respective testimonies were broadcast daily and live by La Paz Radio Panamericana.

However, the members of the parliamentary commission summoned a meeting for this Monday to decide if the cross-examination will take place publicly or privately in honor of the former president's investiture, which would be contrary to Paz Zamora's request.

### Eid Denounces 'Illegal Actions' by U.S. Embassy

*PY0804170194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2022 GMT 7 Apr 94*

[Article by Mabel Azcui]

[Text] La Paz, 7 Apr (EFE)—Oscar Eid, leader of the [Movement of the Revolutionary Left—MIR] party of former Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, denounced today illegal actions of the antidrug police and the U.S. Embassy in La Paz to incriminate him. This occurred after he heard his recorded voice in a conversation with the alleged drug trafficker Edgar Fernandez who admits that the "situation is f....." [situacion j.....]

Eid testified today for three and a half hours before the Constitutional Committee of the Chamber of Deputies that is investigating alleged links between the MIR leadership and Isaac "Oso" Chavarria who is considered by the Special Antinarcotics Force, FELCN, to be the top trafficker in the country.

Eid, who is Paz Zamora's right-hand man, surprised the committee by indicating that he was summoned by "high officials of the U.S. Embassy" in La Paz who handed him a questionnaire on the FELCN regarding an alleged trip by Paz Zamora and Chavarria to Cuba, and on the whereabouts of Fernandez.

The committee members heard a tape recording of phone calls by Edgar Fernandez, Chavarria's aide, apparently late in February or early in March 1994 to Oscar Eid's house, and to the house of former President Paz Zamora in Tarija.

Fernandez, in a desperate voice, asks Eid and his party for help "to disappear" before the police find him and make him appear before the Constitutional Committee because he was sure "I will be torn to pieces," in other words all his alibis would be discredited.

"Please Oscar, please help me," and "get Jaime (Paz Zamora) to tell me where to go" Fernandez said in a pitiful tone. But in the face of Eid's evasive answer, Fernandez warned: "I have not said very much about you," adding "I will not continue to be f....."

Eid refused to help Fernandez, admitting "we don't know what to do" and then repeated: "f....., f....., we are all f....."

Eid very confidently confirmed before the committee that "those calls were made," adding that Paz Zamora told him that similar calls were received in El Picacho, Paz Zamora's ranch near Tarija.

Eid said that the existence of the recordings confirmed his fear that illegal methods were being used to incriminate people.

He told the committee: "This is not an accusation against the embassy" merely information to the deputies regarding his presence in the U.S. Embassy to answer a FELCN questionnaire.

Eid not only answered the FELCN questionnaire through the U.S. Embassy but also traveled to Tarija to obtain Paz Zamora's personal confirmation that "he definitely did not go to Cuba" with Chavarria.

During the three and a half hour interrogation, Eid admitted that Chavarria had provided small planes and a wagon during the MIR electoral campaign and that he went to Chavarria's farm to supervise the drafting of a communique regarding the "narco-photograph."

This photograph shows Chavarria and Paz Zamora sitting on the wing of a plane. It was published in 1988, when Bolivian politics were shaken by another "narco-scandal" that affected two other political parties (the Nationalist Democratic Action and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement). The photograph was used to reach an agreement to halt investigations into possible links between politicians and drug trafficking.

The MIR leader asserted that, on Paz Zamora's instructions, he gave Fernandez $9,000 from party funds to pay Chavarria's medical bills in La Paz. Franco added that he never accounted for this money to anybody but the former president.

### Intelligence Services Arrest EGKT 'Terrorist'

*PY0904031594 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 30 Mar 94 p 7*

[Text] Prosecutor Jose Nemtala on 29 March confirmed the arrest of Victor Poma, alleged member of the Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army, EGKT, who is charged with terrorist attacks and attacks against the state's security.

Nemtala said that Poma was arrested following relentless investigation by the state's intelligence services. He declined to provide further details or the place where Poma is being held.

The EGKT began its terrorist activities in July 1991, with the "bombing" of two high tension pylons in the Alto Lima zone of the city of El Alto. Poma reportedly participated in this attack, which claimed the life of an EGKT member. The organization then perpetrated a number of attacks leading to the arrest of top leaders: the brothers Raul and Alvaro Garcia, who are jailed in the Chonchocoro prison, and Felipe Quispe, known as "El Mallku," among others. The state's intelligence services are searching for Carlos Lara, who is considered to be a member of the EGTK "general staff."

## Brazil

### British Foreign Secretary Continues Visit

#### Confirms British Interest in Petrobras

*PY0904010194 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 7 Apr 94 p 5*

[Article by Livia Ferrari]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has confirmed that British businessmen are interested in associating with the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [Petrobras] to develop the investment project for the construction of the Brazil-Bolivia oil pipeline. The secretary and entrepreneurs who comprise the official British delegation met yesterday with Petrobras Financial Director Celando Galvao at the company's headquarters. They collected information on the development of the project. Hurd deems the project "very creative and appealing to the British private capitalists," who are interested in supplying technology and equipment.

Secretary Hurd had lunch with Brazilian entrepreneurs affiliated with the Brazilian-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In the afternoon, he gave a lecture at the Getulio Vargas Foundation about "How to Administer a Changing World: A European Point of View."

Today the British delegation will leave for Brasilia, where they will be received by President Itamar Franco and the ministers of finance, mines and energy, and foreign affairs.

#### Holds News Conference in Brasilia

*PY0904034594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 7 Apr 94*

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Apr (EFE)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd denied here today having negotiated an agreement to sell arms to Brazil during his talks with President Itamar Franco and with several Brazilian ministers.

Asked about possible negotiations for the sale of British arms to the Brazilian Armed Forces, Hurd said in a news conference that "no agreement has been made by the two governments in this area, but there has been ongoing, steady aid" by private companies.

Hurd said that he and the Brazilian Army minister, General Zenildo de Lucena, discussed the development of "joint work" that would enable Great Britain "to help meet the needs of the Brazilian Armed Forces."

Hurd added that there are "promising areas" for cooperation, and that as a British official it was incumbent upon him to persuade his Brazilian counterparts.

A senior British military official also attended the meeting between Hurd and Gen. Lucena.

Hurd said he has promoted in Brazil a privatization process similar to that which was successfully implemented in his country. He added that in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo he discussed the possible participation of British businessmen in the privatization of state-owned electricity and water companies.

Hurd's entourage consists of British businessmen from the trade, construction, generator and electricity distributor, arms, and fire equipment sectors.

Hurd emphasized the need for the two countries to reach agreements that would promote trade and economic relations, such as the elimination of double taxation, the mutual protection of investments, and the solution of controversies.

Hurd added that there is heightened interest in Brazil among British investors. He also said that he had conveyed to Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko the desire to transfer British know-how to the area of privatization to Brazil.

In his meeting with Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero, Hurd discussed the Brazilian stabilization program to eradicate inflation.

Hurd believes that the economic plan formulated by Ricupero's predecessor—Social Democratic presidential candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso—is popular in Brazil. He conveyed his hope that the plan might be instrumental in defeating inflation, which currently stands at 45.7 percent monthly.

He added that in light of Brazil's potential, its economic prospects are "fantastic."

Brazil is the largest market for British exports in South America. Brazil is also the fifth largest recipient of British investments, with an estimated total of $2 billion.

According to official figures, Great Britain has a deficit in its bilateral trade with Brazil, because in 1993 its exports totaled $662.5 million while its imports of Brazilian products totaled $1.3545 billion.

British exports increased by 52 percent in 1993 compared with 1992.

### Extradition Accord To Be Signed Soon

*PY0904021994 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Report by Claudia Moreira]

[Text] Brazil and the United Kingdom will sign an extradition accord next week. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is examining the Brazilian proposal to create a businessmen's forum, but talks between Hurd and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim did not stop there. They also discussed the environment, free trade zones, and technical cooperation, but all attention was indeed

focused on the extradition accord. The accord has yet to be signed, but according to Minister Celso Amorim it will soon become a reality.

[Begin Amorim recording] An extradition accord was proposed a long time ago. The idea was not born after the Paulo Cesar Farias affair. The problem is that in the past the United Kingdom did not sign extradition accords. That policy has now changed, and they do sign this sort of accord. The Farias affair, naturally, made the need more urgent. From that affair on we began a negotiation process, which is practically finished. I believe, however, that there is still a small problem regarding coordination among UK Government departments. I believe the difficulty resides, practically speaking, in a language problem. [end recording]

Douglas Hurd has already left for Britain.

### Franco Could Be 'Impeached' for Lack of Budget

*PY0804212894 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 94 p B1*

[Excerpts] President Itamar Franco on 7 March told Planning Minister Beni Veras to call in specialists of all ministries to draft the federal budget. They will replace officials of the Budget and Finance Secretariat who have been on strike for the last 36 days. "The country will not go without a budget," the president said, as he announced that he had stopped payments to the strikers. "They will not be paid for the days that they are on strike," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Legal expert Celso Bastos has said that Franco could be impeached [preceding word in English] for not having submitted to Congress the necessary documentation for the approval of this year's budget. The legal basis for an eventual request of impeachment is foreseen in Article No. 85, Paragraph VI of the Constitution. This says a crime has been committed if the president's actions abuse the budget law. Bastos said the fact that the country does not have an approved budget shows that Franco has violated the constitutional norm twice: For not having given Congress the documentation to approve the budget law, and for not permitting it to be approved. [passage omitted]

### Franco To Separate Economic Plan From Campaign

*PY0804234694 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 94 p A4*

[Article by Tania Monteiro]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco is trying to separate the economic plan from the presidential candidacy of former Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso (PSDB) [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. He fears that the stabilization program, chosen by the PSDB as its main campaign banner, will be rejected in Congress for electoral reasons. His main concern is the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], which believes the PSDB candidate will be the main beneficiary if inflation is curbed.

"We need maturity; the stabilization plan is not simply a convenient electoral banner, but a national commitment that must be complied with, even by future governments, for the benefit of the country," Franco said. On 6 April Franco discussed the subject during a meeting with Cardoso, Civilian Household Minister Henrique Hargreaves, and Deputy Luiz Carlos Santos (PMDB-SP) [Sao Paulo], the government leader in the lower house. Franco still intends to talk with the government leader in the Senate, Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Rio Grande do Sul] and with other party leaders. Franco will probably even summon a cabinet meeting to explain that the economic plan must not be confused with the PSDB candidacy. [passage omitted]

### New Finance Minister Faces 'Same Problems'

*PY0804234594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 94 p A3*

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" column: "New Ministry, Old Problems"]

[Excerpts] Provisional Measure [MP] No. 434 is gone, and No. 457 has come; and the new finance minister still faces the same problems his predecessor had, as Congress still wants to modify the MP so as to distort the economic plan. This matter was the main subject of analysis during the first workday of Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero. In meeting with some of the members of the congressional committee that will give an opinion on MP 457, Minister Ricupero verified that obstacles still exist, and with a further aggravating factor: After the exit of Fernando Henrique Cardoso, political interests are still hindering the approval of the economic plan.

Congress does not consider itself defeated by the executive branch triumph in having MP 434 reedited. The electioneering congressmen insist on introducing three modifications to the MP: a recovery of salary losses, a minimum salary increase, and the inclusion of a certain kind of price freeze. The only objective of these changes is to make the economic plan not feasible. [passage omitted]

The problem is that the new finance minister does not have Cardoso's ability to convince the congressmen to approve the economic plan. The fact that Cardoso is a candidate for president of the Republic has increased the number of congressmen interested in the failure of the economic plan.

### Editorial Examines New Finance Minister's 'Style'

*PY0904030294 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 94 p 3*

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" page: "A Job To Be Finished"]

[Text] It could not be expected that from the moment he became head of the Finance Ministry, Ambassador Rubens Ricupero would present a new economic policy or report in detail his plans to continue implementing the FHC2 [Fernando Henrique Cardoso Second] plan. In his own words, his main mission is to act simply as a successor, not a substitute. His is a very delicate duty: to administer a program inherited from someone else. This, however, did not prevent him from clarifying that although he will be faithful to the process, he plans to give it his personal style.

He must, nonetheless, firmly become the one in charge of implementing an already defined program. With this objective, the new finance minister thought it necessary to point out the plan's perfection, which reflects the skills of the person who masterminded it. He praised his predecessor to show that he was thoroughly familiar with the program drafted by Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

His praise of President Itamar Franco sought to calm those who feared he did not have the same Planalto support his predecessor had. He emphasized that he could count on the president's thorough support "without which," he added, "my work would lack effectiveness, and the appointment would have been pointless."

In the long introduction to his speech, in which he sought to clearly define the aspects of his mission, the new minister tried to characterize his style, although he is aware that he will be staying for fewer than nine months at the head of the Finance Ministry. He painted this picture in a discreet and indirect manner, but made everyone realize that his decisions will always be inspired by his social concerns; that is, that it will always pursue one objective—man, in all of his dimensions.

He made no demagogic promises and pointed out that no economic policy can be successful without being preceded by a constitutional reform. He added that the absence of this reform has been foiling all attempts at adjustment to failure. He therefore plans to do his best to ensure that the reform process continues. He is even willing to negotiate and temporize to make sure that the process will be concluded, particularly because unless it is concluded the country will reach a serious impasse.

He added, however, that the success of the FHC2 plan does not depend entirely on the support the Congress or the president of the Republic gives it. He thus calls for society's cooperation in making the program effective. "The judicial branch, state-owned companies, and the governments of states and counties, as well as the media, entrepreneurs, workers, and the public in general, will all have to contribute to this success," Ricupero said. Through this call Minister Ricupero carefully established levels of responsibility. It must be noted that the judicial branch appears at the top of the list.

Rubens Ricupero is giving priority to the moralization of public expenditures. He pointed out that if the order given by Tancredo Neves at the beginning of the New Republic era—"it is forbidden to spend"—had been complied with, the country would have been in a very different condition. Talking on behalf of an administration that holds him responsible for fulfilling this task, he said: "We will persevere in the relentless pursuit of an operational balance of the budget." We are giving emphasis to this sentence because the new minister seems to indicate that such a balance—on which the FHC2 plan is based—has not yet been ensured. As we have said in previous commentaries, Rubens Ricupero will certainly pay more attention than his predecessor to the public deficit issue, which still has not been resolved through the congressional approval of the Emergency Social Fund.

Perhaps the minister has been daring in announcing that as soon as the stabilization is consolidated it will be possible to gradually reduce interest rates. Everything indeed indicates that for a long time the monetary area officials will have to maintain high interest rates to prevent the inflation rate from going up too much and making the FHC2 plan fail. Surely the president of the Republic, who so far has not been entirely conscious of this need, will demand that his new minister prevent the inflation rate from going up. While working on the monetary problems, Rubens Ricupero announced that in the immediate operational plan, he will define rules for issuance of the new currency and ways to back the new currency. These rules are certainly essential for creating confidence in the real.

It would not be fair to conclude an analysis of the speech Minister Rubens Ricupero delivered at his installment ceremony without pointing out that his concern over social problems permeated all his remarks. In his opinion, the problem of an unfair distribution of wealth must be urgently solved. He however does not plan to correct this situation through a populist way of distributing wealth. On the contrary, he believes that the success of the anti-inflation effort depends on the capacity to reduce social unfairness. We can rest assured that as the economic program is implemented, the new minister's characteristics will be reaffirmed.

## Points of Disagreement Among Economic Team Cited

*PY0804230094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 94 Section 1 p 10*

[Article by Sonia Mossri and Gustavo Patu]

[Text] Brasilia—Disagreements among the members of the economic team prevented Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero from announcing during his swearing-in ceremony on 5 April the rules for transition into the new currency, the real.

The only consensus within the economic team is the feasibility of putting the real into circulation on 1 June, despite the fact that the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] prefers 1 July. Finance Ministry advisers observe that the acceptance of the URV [Real Value

Unit] is widespread. Several price indexes have already adopted the URV as the new unit of reference.

The PSDB believes that the creation of the new currency on 1 July will help the candidacy of former Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. According to PSDB projections, inflation should be below 5 percent by October.

One of the main controversial subjects among the economic team members is the exchange system that will be adopted following the creation of the real; that is, the dollar quotation in the new currency.

Central Bank [BC] President Pedro Malan, BC International Affairs Director Gustavo Franco, and special adviser Jose Milton Dallari do not favor a fixed exchange rate (that is, a fixed dollar price in reals).

However, Economic Policy Secretary Winston Fritsch and special adviser Edmar Bacha defend a fixed exchange rate during the first stage of the real so as to curb inflation more quickly.

Another point of disagreement is the manner by which inflation will be eliminated at the moment of transition from one currency to the other. This means not taking into account the price variations of the periods before and after the creation of the real. The objective is not to transmit the price variations of the old currency (cruzeiro real) to the new currency.

As for prefixed contracts [credit card payments or purchases in installments] other economic plans had adopted a conversion scale with daily conversion indexes. Given that these are short-term contracts (an average 30 days), part of the economic team believes that the anticipated announcement of the date of creation of the new currency does not make the adoption of a conversion scale necessary.

The economic team has not yet agreed on mechanisms for eliminating the monetary correction during the month that the real will go into effect, and the following month.

Gustavo Franco, who used to push for the issuance of a decree that would establish rules to eliminate the inflationary residues, now has begun to say that the subject is "very complicated."

The rules for the adoption of the URV in the financial system also cause contradictions. In the past two weeks Franco and Dallari envisaged creating as soon as possible CDB's [Bank Deposit Certificates] in URV's. Malan and BC Norms Director Claudio Mauch believe that the immediate adoption of such a measure would be precipitate.

Another controversial point is the conversion of public utility rates into URV's. Dallari believes that a daily correction of fuel and electricity prices would further bolster inflation.

The creation of a special BC directorate with the sole objective of looking after the issuance of the real implies further problems. The subject is being discussed behind closed doors because the creation of such a directorate requires congressional approval.

The measures that divide the economic team are:

**The Date for Placing the Real into Circulation**

The most probable date is 1 June, as most of the team wants, while Cardoso and the PSDB favor 1 July with an eye on the elections calendar.

**Backing for the New Currency**

This is the mechanism to guarantee the real, to turn it into a strong currency. It is not yet known what portion of the exchange reserves will be used to guarantee the real, or whether the government will take any actions in this regard.

**Dollar Exchange Rate**

Part of the economic team wants a fixed exchange rate; that is, that the dollar price in real should always remain the same. The BC defends a fluctuating exchange rate.

**Financial System**

The Finance Ministry wants a faster adoption of the URV in the financial system, while the BC favors a more cautious approach.

**Public Utility Rates**

While some members of the economic team defend the immediate conversion of public utility rates into URV, others consider that such a measure would fuel inflation as the utility rates could increase daily.

**Special BC Directorate**

The BC would create a special directorate only to look after the issuance of the real. Finance Minister Ricupero has not yet given the green light for this project, and the economic team has not yet defined how the measure will be sent to Congress.

**Inflation**

It has not yet been decided how to eliminate inflation in real cruzeiros at the moment of the creation of the real. Other economic plans adopted a conversion scale to discount the inflationary expectations embedded in prefixed contracts.

## Government To Dismantle Nuclear Plant by 2009

*PY0904023994 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 94 p A16*

[Article by Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio—Edgar Kircher, the Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. [Fu' as] adviser for environmental security, has reported tha Angra-1 will probably be dismantled in about 15 years, or in other words around the year 2009.

Furnas failed to earn a profit of nearly $100 million (97.7 billion real cruzeiros) as a result of the fact that the Angra-1 nuclear plant has been closed for more than a year without producing any electrical energy. This energy should have been connected to the electricity system serving the southeastern region of the country. Angra-1 can produce energy equivalent to 20 percent of the electricity consumed in the city of Rio de Janeiro. Furnas experts said that "this loss is not really a loss, but a profit the company failed to make."

Angra-1 construction costs totalled about $2 billion, but through having been disconnected over 30 times due to faulty parts and equipment and to comply with court orders, the plant has already forced the government to spend much more than that. Exact figures, however, have never been reported. Kleber Cosenza, head of the Furnas Power Generation Department, reported that Angra-1 fuel—enriched uranium purchased from Urenco (a consortium from Germany, England, and the Netherlands)—alone cost Furnas $20 million last year. Another $5 million was spent in repairing the plant.

Consenza added that Angra-1 is undergoing final tests for being put into operation again in 20 days. According to him, the plant is theoretically ready to be put into operation. To do so, however, Furnas needs the authorization of the National Nuclear Energy Commission and the conclusion of the emergency plan to evacuate Angra dos Reis residents in case of an accident. The evacuation plan is about to be finished and has undergone a series of modifications, Consenza said.

Luiz Henrique Goncalves de Moraes, assistant at the Furnas Thermonuclear Generation Superintendency, said that this plan has to be reviewed so that Angra-1 can again operate. According to him, the new plan meets the international requirements that state that in case of an accident, residents living in a 3 km radius must be evacuated.

He reported that the latest data issued by the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics, IBGE, indicate that nearly 9,000 people live in this area. In accordance with the new plan, monitorial teams will determine small areas at a radius of 5 km to 15 km around the plant to be isolated. He said that in accordance with IBGE data nearly 70,000 people currently live in this wider area.

On the night of 5 April, Furnas experts visited Angra-1 facilities during a visit made to the plant by a group of Sao Paulo environmental experts.

## Chile

### Carabineros Director Begins 'Special Leave'

*PY0804180494 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] As of today [Carabineros Director] General Rodolfo Stange will enjoy a special leave permit. The resolution does not state how long he will be on leave.

Carabineros sources this morning confirmed that Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange Oelckers has started his vacation. His special leave permit is the result of an agreement reached after a lengthy meeting until dawn today between Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma and members of the Carabineros high command. It was stated that the purpose of this leave permit is to make the proceedings more clear and impartial.

In addition to the special leave granted to Stange, Carabineros Justice Service Director General Carlos Pecchi Croce will ask the Court Martial to appoint a special judge to the case. It was pointed out that the decision to request the appointment of a special judge is based on the so-called Cumplido law, and follows a lengthy meeting by Carabineros generals.

It should be recalled that these decisions were made at dawn today following a series of meetings. It should also be recalled that last February Gen. Stange took his regular vacations. This new leave permit is the result of negotiations between the government and Carabineros.

This information was confirmed this morning by Carabineros sources but there was no official report on what happened at dawn today during the meeting between the defense minister and members of the Carabineros high command at an undetermined site.

### Cordero Appointed Acting Carabineros Director

*PY0804205594 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Excerpts] After a meeting between Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma and members of the Carabineros high command, it was officially announced that General Fernando Cordero Rusque has assumed duties as acting director general of this institution.

This was disclosed after the meeting, when Gen. Cordero chatted with the media, at times in a harsh tone of voice.

[Begin recording] [Cordero] You have asked me on several occasions whether or not I think about the matter. The truth is that I do think about it.

[Unidentified reporter] No, what I meant is what do you think about Carabineros officers being charged with unlawful association for terrorist purposes?

[Cordero] Well, that will be determined by the investigations.

[Reporter] Yes, but Judge Milton Juica has sentenced several Carabineros officers for unlawful association for terrorist purposes.

[Cordero] Yes. The ruling has not been appealed yet. [end recording]

Later on, Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma said that the government is fully satisfied with the solution to this problem.

[Begin recording] [Perez] It is a solution. We always maintained we thought it unsuitable that General Stange remained head of the institution while the investigations continued. We believe the right thing has been done, and greatly appreciate Gen. Stange's gesture to request the Supreme Court to appoint a special judge to hear the case. This gives him and the public guarantees. We are fully satisfied.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the National Security Council will definitely not be summoned?

[Perez] I think so, definitely. [passage omitted]

It was not stated how long Gen. Stange will be on leave, but Minister Perez did say he would remain on leave until his legal situation is resolved.

## Colombia

### Prosecutor General's Office on Letter on Munoz

*PA0704192794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 94*

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] The Prosecutor General's Office has just issued a communique explaining why Prosecutor General de Greiff has sent the judge who is investigating Dandeny Munoz Mosquera, alias La Quica, a letter stating there are no charges against him in the case of the Avianca plane.

The communique states that the letter has been misinterpreted and specifies that all de Greiff did was send the information, which was requested by La Quica's defense attorney, to the United States. Second, the communique notes that by constitutional mandate, the Prosecutor General's Office must investigate the pros and cons involved in any case. Third, it points out that it was the Prosecutor General's Office that sent the evidence to the United States that allowed La Quica to be condemned in the United States for forgery.

De Greiff's controversial letter could change the course of La Quica's case, but the judge will not decide until this afternoon whether the letter will be accepted.

### Denies Meddling in Munoz Case

*PA1004183894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 16A*

["Text" of communique issued by the Prosecutor General's Office in Santa Fe de Bogota on 7 April]

[Text] In view of the wrong interpretations that some media have made regarding the letter sent by Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff to Honorable Judge Sterling Johnson, the Prosecutor General's Office states the following:

1. [number as published] The Prosecutor General's Office, in its missive, simply provided the honorable judge with a piece of information requested by the defense lawyers of Mr. Dandenys Munoz Mosquera in the sense that a person being prosecuted in Colombia had claimed responsibility for the unfortunate incidents surrounding the bomb attack on Avianca Flight No. 203 and that no charges had been filed against the person being prosecuted in the United States.

Constitutional mandate (Article 250) states that in Colombia the Prosecutor General's Office is compelled to investigate both the favorable as well as unfavorable elements surrounding the case of an indicted person, and, as a result, the prosecutor general contends it is his duty to inform the honorable U.S. judge about the information being requested by the defense lawyers of Mr. Munoz Mosquera without attempting to meddle in the judge's jurisdiction, let alone to assume the defense of a person being prosecuted in another country. That is why the information provided by the Prosecutor General's Office does not contain statements but, rather, specific verifiable facts that should be taken into consideration by those in charge of determining the person's culpability in the incidents.

Just as in the past, the Colombian Prosecutor General's Office has provided the documents requested by the U.S. Justice Department that led to the correct identification of Dandenys Munoz Mosquera and to his sentencing in that country for the crime of providing false identification. The office has also provided the list of charges that have been brought against him in Colombia, including charges against him for his participation in a band of paid assassins and the judicial charges against him for the possession of weapons and for assisting in a prison escape. In this case, at the request of Munoz's defense attorneys, the prosecutor general is referring to a specific incident, the Avianca case, for which Munoz is not responsible, according to the evidence on the case contained in our country's files.

### De Greiff Reportedly Set To Resign

*PA0904011794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A in Spanish 0002 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff is disappointed with everything and everyone and is very seriously considering the possibility of resigning. This is our newscast's confidential report. The serious dispute between Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff and U.S. Government authorities in the past days, added to his differences with top officials in President Cesar Gaviria's government on all his recent actions, has brought up the possibility of his resignation.

According to information obtained by this newscast, de Greiff is seriously considering the possibility of officially tendering his resignation next Monday, when he returns from the United States. Entirely trustworthy sources have asserted that the prosecutor general will resign because he is disappointed with what he has called the Colombian Government's lack of solidarity in confronting strong criticism by U.S. authorities who accuse him of being weak in his negotiations with the drug traffickers.

This newscast has also established that next week, the prosecutor general will also present a long document in which he will clarify his actions with legal arguments and point out that all his measures have been in accord with the strict implementation of the new criminal law. Prosecutor General de Grieff and the Supreme Court chief justice met today to discuss the need to strengthen this law.

In addition, de Grieff will declare that the Prosecutor General's Office is being hindered in continuing the investigation of the attack on the Avianca plane and will ask the government to appoint ad hoc officials to this case, which caused his differences with the United States to increase.

## Prosecutor Denies 'Discrediting U.S. Officials'

*PA1004181194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Apr 94 pp 1A, 8A*

[Text] Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff has said that his office "has never intended to tell the United States how its judges should try its cases or how to evaluate evidence sent there. "I have never said that the U.S. Justice Department is uncommonly charitable toward drug traffickers."

As for U.S. Justice Department officials, De Greiff pointed out he has never said that one of them "met clandestinely with a drug cartel chief, and I have never made similar charges against U.S. executive branch officials or a senator."

The prosecutor general argued that neither his review of a possible long-term drug legalization program nor his demand that the industrialized countries—particularly the United States—make greater efforts in the fight against drugs was ever intended "to discredit U.S. officials, or to tell the U.S. attorney general how to enforce the law, much less intend to attribute slanderous remarks to her."

These statements are included in a 30 March letter De Greiff sent to President Cesar Gaviria to explain his position on remarks Gaviria made in an interview he granted to this newspaper.

When asked about whether the executive branch was completely independent with regard to drug trafficking in light of statements made by the U.S. drug czar and Attorney General Janet Reno, both of whom commented on how the Cali Cartel should be dealt with, the Colombian head of state replied as follows:

"We must understand that judicial cooperation is a very difficult process and that the two countries' judicial systems are different. The U.S. Justice Department has significant differences with the Prosecutor General's Office. In the past, the executive branch also had differences of opinion, but I believe we are overcoming these now. Nevertheless, we cannot be surprised by this.

"The president is usually very careful when he issues an opinion with regard to U.S. counternarcotics policies. However, the Prosecutor General's Office does not always react in the same manner. If this happens here, then we must expect to receive criticism from over there."

### Prosecutor General's Letter

In response to President Gaviria's comments, De Greiff sent him the following letter:

In the 30 March issue of EL TIEMPO, you said you are careful when you comment on U.S. internal policies on fighting drug trafficking, but that the Prosecutor General's Office is not always careful. It is very clear to me that these remarks also insinuate that it is acceptable for U.S. officials to express their opinions on our ability to fight drug trafficking.

Let me tell you that the United States does not behave in this manner, because the Prosecutor General's Office—especially me—has never intended to tell the United States how its judges should try its cases or how to evaluate evidence sent there. I have never said that the U.S. Justice Department—much less its main representative—is uncommonly charitable toward drug traffickers. In addition, we have never claimed that this department met clandestinely with a drug cartel chief, and I have never made similar charges against U.S. executive branch officials or a senator.

It seems to me that all of this is very different from saying the way in which we are waging the war against drug trafficking has proven unsuccessful, that we should study the possibility of legalizing drugs in the long term to reduce drug traffickers' profits, and that drug-consuming countries (especially the United States) have failed to do enough to curtail drug consumption. In none of these statements, however, did I intend to discredit U.S. officials, or to tell the U.S. attorney general how to enforce the law, much less intend to attribute slanderous remarks to her.

So you see, there is a difference!

[Signed] Gustavo de Greiff

### Attorney General on Penal Code, Issues

*PA0804153094 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Telephone interview with Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta by Caracol news director Daric Arizmendi in Santa Fe de Bogota on 8 April; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Excerpts] [Arizmendi] We greet Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta. Good day.

[Arrieta] Good morning, Dario. How are you?

[Arizmendi] In the last few hours you reiterated the thesis you maintained in Congress during discussion of the new Penal Procedure Code, in the sense the approved provisions were going to create confusion, ambiguity, and would lend themselves to criticism from national and international public opinion. Have your statements been corroborated in practice?

[Arrieta] You know the Attorney General's Office has maintained a position in this regard for a long time. We believe if this country wants to develop a serious and coherent criminal policy on the drug struggle, it must have solid and strong regulations that permit it to advance in this matter. I think this does not exist.

The Attorney General's Office has stated on several occasions the Penal Code is weak and does not establish appropriate sentences for drug trafficking crimes, and the Penal Procedure Code is a confused and profuse regulation. It does not establish clear procedures, and if it is handled inappropriately, it could lead to impunity.

[Arizmendi] What would have to be done to strengthen this Penal Code and establish appropriate sentences to avoid what is happening?

[Arrieta] I believe the country must definitely undertake an integral project to reform the Penal Code and the Penal Procedure Code. I am not aiming at a large project to modify all the provisions, but coherent legislation should be issued regarding drug trafficking.

Something very worrisome is taking place. As violence increased during the last six or seven years, occasional legislative reactions have sprung up, and new and different provisions have been issued. A judge or attorney must now apply 60 or 70 different provisions concerning drug trafficking in order to understand the norm or applicable situation in a particular case; this creates confusion and does not produce the necessary clarity in dealing with this matter.

Naturally, the country's problem is not related to regulations only, but it has many additional aspects. One of the first steps that would have to be taken is a definite integration, coherently and systematically, with existing legislation so as to tighten sentences and clarify procedures.

[Arizmendi] A unanimous decision by the various organizations would be required, namely, from the Justice Ministry, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Attorney General's Office; this agreement does not exist.

[Arrieta] I think this requires an effort by all concerned organizations, not only the government, judiciary, or Attorney General's Office but also Congress, which is ultimately responsible for issuing the codes. I believe the gravity of the circumstances and the questioning of Colombia justify an unvarying and strong reaction from all Colombians to show that this country is not a narcodemocracy. We must demonstrate this is a country that is indeed ready to fight drug trafficking. [passage omitted]

[Arizmendi] Colombia at this moment is in the eye of the U.S. media and many U.S. congressmen. The country is well aware of the letter exchanges between the Prosecutor General's Office and the U.S. attorney general, the response of the Colombian ambassador to Washington to THE WASHINGTON POST's article by Senator Kerry. In sum, does this confusion and confrontation originate in the verbal recklessness of the prosecutor or existing regulations?

[Arrieta] I think there are many factors that come into play here. I think we are facing a problem that has evolved for no reason. From basic discussions on legalization issues we have gone to such expressions as narcodemocracy or the questioning of Colombian justice. I think this is the right time to end this.

I do not know what the cause is and cannot offer a specific solution. The cause may be a combination of the factors you mentioned. The absolute truth is I, as attorney general and a Colombian citizen, cannot allow this to continue. We have reached such harsh terms as the ones we have seen in recent days without any justification. The [word indistinct] has snowballed into such dimensions I believe we must put a definitive end to this, because this is affecting not only the functioning of Colombian institutions but relations with the United States. This may have more serious effects we cannot foresee at this moment.

Our responsibility is to end this problem. We must not act separately, but we must act in a coordinated manner.

[Arizmendi] How can we end this problem, and how can we act in a coordinated manner? Who is the one out of line?

[Arrieta] I told you earlier I will issue a communique today on that issue. In it, we will adopt a position on this matter. We will provide a complete picture of what has happened, but at this moment I believe it is fundamental

for us to make an effort so that the situation will not continue to intensify and does not affect all Colombians. [passage omitted]

[Arizmendi] Let's address the case against General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales [army commander who ordered troops to take back the Justice Palace from rebel control in 1985], whose discharge was requested in 1990. You affirmed that decision three years ago. Is there a difference of opinion between the executive branch and the Attorney General's Office on this issue?

[Arrieta] In this particular case the Attorney General's Office has no other option but to request application of a decision the Attorney General's Office had previously taken. We conducted a detailed evaluation of the situation and arrived at the conclusion there were no legal means of modifying the decision. Eventually it came to where there was no legal way to avoid carrying out the order the Attorney General's Office had issued in 1990.

[Arizmendi] What does it mean to an Army general to be discharged as repeatedly ordered by the Attorney General's Office?

[Arrieta] It is a heavy blow. In this specific case it involves removal from his current post, something which will create rather difficult and complex problems for him and the institution.

[Arizmendi] Does this mean Gen. Cabrales is the only one responsible for what the government troops did during the events at the Justice Palace?

[Arrieta] Allow me to explain. When I first assumed my post, I took on the challenge of studying the decision by the previous Attorney General's Office. I had several doubts about the investigation. I felt they did not dig deep enough in certain areas. I felt if they had gone a little further we might have seen slightly different results in certain matters; this does not mean Cabrales is not responsible for anything at all. It means the investigation did not go far enough regarding whether certain decisions were really made and, in particular, who took the specific decisions regarding the operations that took place in the bathroom between the third and fourth floor of the palace, which is where the events to which the Attorney General's Office objected occurred.

In a disciplinary action such as this, we can no longer claim these doubts. The terms for filing such claims were prescribed in 1990. We have tried to clarify certain facts, but we have been unable to make it work as swiftly as we would have preferred. Given we were unable to make it work and in light of the specific laws that order the fulfillment of rulings issued at the Attorney General's Office, we decided to apply the Attorney General's Office ruling as originally issued. [passage omitted]

[Arizmendi] Mr. Attorney General, turning to another topic, and going back somewhat to what we were talking about at the beginning of our conversation, you said on television last night that at this time you do not think the conditions or circumstances exist for new surrenders of Cali Cartel drug traffickers. On what basis did you make this statement?

[Arrieta] I think what we discussed a short while ago sufficiently supports this. I do not think the conditions exist at this specific time. The environment is not the appropriate one. There is a great distrust and prejudice; there is great concern about the whole topic. I think the most important thing is to calm the waters again, to have the authorities sit down and agree on policy and then proceed with the surrender to justice program.

In these days, at this particular moment, I think the atmosphere is too heated to make a surrender to justice process feasible. I am not setting a time limit; this might be solved in eight, 10, 15 days or in one or two months. What I have always said is that the surrender to justice policy is important for the country. It is useful. I think that as Colombians we should try to move forward with it, with clear and firm rules, but as circumstances stand at this time, with the level of debates taking place both nationally and internationally, I think there should be at least a halt, a temporary halt, which might last a few days or somewhat longer, according to [words indistinct].

[Arizmendi] In other words, we might say the attorney general is proposing the process of surrender to justice by the drug traffickers be frozen until there is an agreement, juridical or political, to make the sentences against these drug traffickers harsher or more rigorous?

[Arrieta] I cannot propose that it be frozen, among other things, simply because the legal provisions exist and they establish the possibilities of surrender; therefore, if tomorrow an individual presents himself before a prosecutor or judge of the country, there is no other alternative but to receive him. What I think is that regarding a broad case, such as that of the Cali Cartel, which has political and juridical [word indistinct] and which requires full coordination among all the authorities, I do not think it would be appropriate to advance with this process until we reach agreement on all the parameters under which we should act. As soon as that occurs, something which might be done very rapidly, then we could—if this is what is desired—continue with that process. At this time, at a time of debate, when the atmosphere is heated, and when positions are not entirely clear, I think, however, it would not be appropriate, because the country would simply not understand it, precisely because of the prevailing climate of distrust and confusion.

[Arizmendi] You said the legal provisions exist, evidently in the Penal Code and the Penal Procedures Code. You also said in the past the surrender to justice policy has ended, replaced by the codes. If the sentences are evidently so minimal, ridiculous, and short as certain U.S. authorities assert, one might then think this is exactly the best time for the Cali Cartel drug traffickers to surrender massively before the codes are reformed and made harsher.

[Arrieta] Of course, of course. That is the position they [not further identified] might want. I think our position, as a state, is precisely to try to design all the mechanisms so there will be a surrender process, but one that will not create any feeling of impunity under any viewpoint. Of course, what you mentioned is part of the dilemma that always arises. On the one hand, there are a number of people who want to take advantage of the law for their own benefit; this is inevitable and is the reason why lawyers, procedures, and legal provisions exist. On the other hand, there is the state, which has the responsibility to fulfill its social function and to ensure those legal provisions are applied the best way possible. What I am suggesting is that there be a review of the overall reform of the legal provisions so that we can have a Penal Code, procedural provisions, and a surrender to justice policy which are clear and which do not produce any kind of impunity. [passage omitted]

[Arizmendi] Why is the prosecutor general the only one taking all the flak when all he is really doing is interpreting and applying code provisions. In Congress you courageously warned the country about what was coming, and unfortunately time has shown you were right. But the prosecutor general was not the one who drew up the codes. It was Congress, and in Congress Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez even changed the meaning of certain bills, and he defended what was finally approved in Congress. Now the prosecutor general is the one being criticized when the government was also involved in what was finally approved. The government signed the law.

[Arrieta] I think one has to put this issue back into perspective. If one looks at what has been taking place in the past two or three months, there have not really been new (?actions) in the application of the Penal and Penal Procedures Codes. There has been debate, and it has been growing, but only based on topics that are not directly linked to the Penal Procedures Code, such as the issue of legalization and the issue of whether the struggle against drug trafficking has worked. All of this has led us to a debate that involves not only thinking about aspects of policy but also aspects of norms.

I agree with you in part that a portion of the problem is not only caused by isolated actions but also by the very existence of legal provisions which are not clear and are inappropriate; therefore, what we propose is that we halt a debate that is not taking us anywhere. With the increase in crime, what we Colombians must do is form a barrier, a united front, with everyone confronting the problem. Facing the problem entails a review of legal provisions to resolve all those vacuums, all those weaknesses that might exist in the codes. It entails acting in a coordinated way, because it is a problem of national interest, which not only involves one institution but all Colombians.

[Arizmendi] Lastly, Mr. Attorney General, and thank you for your willingness to speak with Caracol network so extensively about such relevant topics, I would like to know whether the Attorney General's Office knows the names of the infiltrator in the Prosecutor General's Office, who the State Department says belongs to the Cali Cartel, and four high-ranking government officials, who the State Department said last night also work for the Cali Cartel?

[Arrieta] I want to make a comment regarding the question. In the State Department report, it is said the Colombian Government is studying the fourth-ranking person in the office of what they call the Attorney General [preceding two words in English]. The Americans make a distinction between the office of the Attorney General [preceding two words in English], which is the Attorney General's Office [Procuraduria General de la Nacion], and the office of the Prosecutor General [preceding two words in English], which is the Prosecutor General's Office [Fiscal General de la Nacion]. When they said the fourth-ranking person in the office of the Attorney General [preceding two words in English] was being investigated, they were referring to what they called the fourth- ranking person in the Attorney General's Office. It is a case that for us has been extremely mortifying and painful. It is the case of Dr. (Guillermo Villa). They were not referring to a person in the Prosecutor General's Office but to a person in the Attorney General's Office. It is a case that is well known and has been sufficiently debated by public opinion. I think it is important that this be clarified, because shadows of doubt should not be cast over other people. Regarding the other four people who might be investigated, I do not have information about them.

[Arizmendi] In the case of Dr. (Guillermo Villa Alzate), who you just mentioned, what is happening?

[Arrieta] I think the process is about to conclude. The final phases of the evidence period are being carried out, and, as far as the Attorney General's Office is concerned, I hope that in the course of the next few weeks, at the latest in one or two months, a definitive decision is going to be made.

## President Orders General's Dismissal

*PA0904013094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[From the "National Newscast"]

[Text] At the request of the Attorney General's Office, President Cesar Gaviria today ordered the dismissal of General Jesus Armando Arias Cabrales, who led the counterattack on the Justice Palace [which was taken over by the M-19 in November 1985]. Defense Minister [Rafael Pardo] sent a letter to the attorney general expressing his disagreement with the decision.

Defense Minister Pardo established his ministry's position on the dismissal of Gen. Arias Cabrales. He said he will obey the order but disagrees with it. Why? First, he said that Gen. Arias Cabrales only fulfilled a legal duty and carried out a legitimate order from his superiors.

Pardo insists that the top commanders were fully aware of the operation and could have stopped it.

Second, says Pardo, Gen. Arias Cabrales' responsibility in the case is not entirely clear because the criminal investigation has not been concluded that an inquiry ordered by the prosecutor appointed by the Attorney General's Office is still pending.

The "National Newscast" has learned that the purpose of this inquiry is to find out who gave Gen. Arias Cabrales his orders, who was in the chain of command, and who planned the attack on the bathroom where several hostages died.

### Socialist Renewal Guerrillas Sign Peace Accord

*PA0904183594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Text] Flor del Monte (Colombia), 9 Apr (EFE)—The Socialist Renewal Movement (CRS) today became the fifth Colombian guerrilla organization to reach a peace agreement with the government within the past four years.

Government representatives and leaders of the CRS—a dissident group once under the Marxist Army of National Liberation (ELN)—today signed an agreement incorporating about 850 members of this organization—430 of whom were bearing weapons—into national political and institutional life. The agreement was signed in Flor del Monte (northern Colombia).

On 9 March 1990, the 19th April Movement became the first group to lay down its weapons. It was followed by the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) in March 1991, the People's Revolutionary Party (PRT) in April 1991, and the Quintin Lame Indians Movement in May 1991.

The weapons surrender ceremony in Flor del Monte (Sucre) was attended by a dozen ambassadors, politicians from all parties, delegations from domestic and international organizations, and Catholic Church representatives—all of whom attended as observers.

The activities marking this event began on 8 April with the collection and inventory of weapons and ammunition under the supervision of an international oversight group established to monitor compliance with the agreements. The Dutch Government and Socialist International are members of this oversight group.

The weapons will be smelted and turned into bells for churches located in the pacified zone. Meanwhile, the ammunition was spent when the rebels fired all of their weapons into the air. In all, some 450 weapons were emptied, including rifles, submachine guns, revolvers, and pistols of various calibers. The last remaining weapons, which are in the hands of some 50 men, will be surrendered in two parts—today during the main ceremony and, later, when the combatants start to abandon their camp.

After the ceremonies, which included cultural activities and a symbolic farewell to arms, the Flor del Monte camp will be dismantled and the former combatants will immediately depart for different regions to establish political headquarters and work places.

The Arco Iris Foundation, which was established by the guerrillas, will coordinate the integration process. It will be in charge of channeling funds to various programs, including programs aimed at promoting small businesses and farms.

The CRS also will be entitled to two seats in the Chamber of Representatives.

Some 430 members of this group are in the camp, and there are another 221 in various prisons. There are also about 200 people who have been giving the CRS political and logistical support. Most of these people have been investigated for subversion. Now, they also will enjoy legal benefits.

The negotiations included eight areas: human rights, civic participation, economic consensus, regional development, economic and social integration, political benefits, legal benefits, and the surrender of weapons.

The CRS emerged five years ago following a split within the ELN. The ELN is a Marxist guerrilla group led by former Spanish priest Manuel Perez. Some commanders had criticized the philosophy, methods, and procedures used by the group's central leadership. Based on these major differences, a dissident group known initially as "The Patch" [El Parche] emerged.

The ELN dissidents mainly disagreed with making the struggle more military than political and focusing it on the countryside and not in urban centers. They also disapproved of the strategy of using terrorism and kidnapping to promote the war against the state.

Following the CRS demobilization, there are still some 10,000 active guerrillas, mostly under the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the ELN, and a dissident group of the EPL.

### Turn In Weapons

*PA0904185194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Apr 94*

[Report by Patricia Uribe from the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] The peace process ended today in Flor del Monte, Sucre Department, when members of the Socialist Renewal Movement [CRS]—a dissident faction of the National Liberation Army—turned over their weapons to the government minister and the presidential peace adviser.

Beginning today, more than 400 CRS guerrillas will lay down their weapons and join in a new sociopolitical movement. Those present at the ceremony included

government representatives, ambassadors, and, for the first time in the peace process, international observers from the Netherlands. These 400 rebels will turn over their weapons, some of which will be smelted and others thrown into the sea. The two sides today agreed that 300 weapons will be turned over, even though a document being finalized by the CRS states there are 450 weapons. One of the important points agreed to between the government and the CRS has to do with legal benefits.

[Begin unidentified official recording] Pardons for kidnappers have been ruled out. We believe kidnapping is a crime that cannot be justified, not even for political ends. [end recording]

Meanwhile, according the CRS leadership, this process should provide an example to the CNGSB [Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board]. A verification commission comprising government and CRS representatives and international observers will verify compliance with the peace agreement every four months.

The signing of the peace agreement makes the CRS the fourth rebel group that Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has convinced to join civilian life during his administration.

### Guerrilla Attack Forces Shutdown of Pipeline

*PA0804000294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2124 GMT 4 Apr 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian company ECOPETROL stopped pumping crude oil through the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, the country's largest, after a new attack by the guerrillas.

ECOPETROL sources said the sabotage, which caused a moderate fire and spilled an unspecified quantity of crude oil, occurred at Km 150 between Arauquita and La Esmeralda, near the border with Venezuela.

According to the report, members of the National Liberation Army detonated three dynamite charges against the pipeline, damaging a sizable portion thereof and forcing suspension of the pumping, a suspension that will continue until it is repaired in a few days.

Colombia's oil infrastructure has become one of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board's main targets. The guerrilla organization is attempting to thwart the oil exporting of multinational enterprises.

Authorities of Arauca Department, where the recently discovered Cusiana oil fields are located, mounted a strong security operation to preclude new attacks.

## Paraguay

### Wasmosy Comments on European Tour, Meetings

*PY0804213094 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 14*

[Article by special ABC COLOR correspondent Luis Maria Maiz in Brussels]

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy told ABC COLOR yesterday that his European tour comes at a key moment. He said he received an "excellent response" from European Union [EU] officials. Wasmosy said he has the "compiex" mission of reconditioning the "completely unrealistic" image of "today's" Paraguay. Today he will raise with [French President] Francois Mitterrand the possibility of rescheduling the foreign debt for the next two years so as to allocate funds for social programs.

Wasmosy said his European tour is taking place "at the right moment." He said he has received an "excellent" response to his explanations of cooperation projects, most of which seek to favor the most vulnerable classes.

Wasmosy yesterday ended a two-day visit to Brussels where his busy agenda involved meeting with high EU and European Parliament dignitaries and European Bank of Investments officials, among others.

He is scheduled to meet on 8 April with French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace in Paris. Wasmosy will raise with the French president his desire to reschedule the Paraguayan foreign debt repayments.

Wasmosy will discuss the same issue with French Patronage and Paris Club board members.

In a brief chat with ABC COLOR, Wasmosy described his meetings in Brussels. He explained to the European Parliament our country's political situation, our hopes for agro-industrial development and progress in processing raw materials, which are currently exported without added value.

Wasmosy said he clearly explained the peasant problem and the way in which his administration is coping with this situation that was broadly covered by the press, specially in February and March.

Asked if the key point of his European tour involves rescheduling our foreign debt, Wasmosy made it clear that Paraguay is not specifically asking for renegotiations because "we have no arrears."

The president emphasized: "We have not come to ask for pardons, but to raise a rescheduling of our repayments for the next two years so as to have the funds we wish to allocate for social programs. We have not come to ask for renegotiations or pardons."

Wasmosy described as complex the task of overcoming the distrust towards the image that Paraguay had projected over the past 30 years or so, an image that still prevails in Europe. He added: "Think about Paraguay's current profile in Europe. It is completely unrealistic nowadays. As president, I have the huge task of reconditioning this image."

Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone said the Paraguayan delegation was impressed by the interest demonstrated by European officials in the Paraguayan process and Paraguay's future.

Scavone noted: "The president was subjected to what we could call a very interesting questioning by the European Parliament Foreign Relations and Security Committee. This demonstrates that there is considerable interest in the Paraguayan process and Paraguay's future."

The EU is experiencing difficult times both in its internal recycling, its stance toward GATT, and its relationship with the United States.

These complications, however, will not prevent Paraguay from securing some assistance. Scavone said: "Considering our past achievements, which were nil, we have very good possibilities."

Scavone emphasized the favorable inclination that exists. He added that "President Wasmosy's image and his correct and able handling of the issues has greatly contributed" to this visit's success.

### Israel Alerts Police On Arab 'Terrorists'

*PY0804151494 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 8 Apr 94 p 49*

[Text] NOTICIAS learned from police sources yesterday that alleged Lebanese or Palestinian terrorists entered the country through Ciudad del Este during the week to attack the Israeli Embassy. Recent events in the Middle East and the possible signing of a peace treaty in the conflict area has allegedly hurt the interests of terrorists who are trying to boycott it through attacks against Jewish people and assets in South America and around the world. The police are handling the issue with absolute secrecy.

The Israeli intelligence service told the National Police about the entry of the alleged terrorists into the country. They came through Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

In Brazil, these individuals allegedly obtained the support of some of their people to get false passports and other documents, including the famous special permits called "Border Controls," which are handled by the border mafia.

The National Police ordered the Intelligence Department, the Investigative Department, Interpol, and the 4th Zone Police Command to carry out an in-depth investigation to locate the foreigners. Police Superintendent General Lopez Pintos, director of the Technical Support department, said foreigners are regularly and routinely controlled. He minimized the importance of the issue.

Police Superintendent General Santiago Flores Torres, chief of the 4th Zone, said his first concern when he assumed the command of Canindeyu, Alto Parana, and Itapua Departments, was to order a census of foreigners residing in the border zone, which is very vulnerable to the entry of undesirable people.

"The Immigration Department and this command are strictly controlling the situation. We will provide documents to residing foreigners and place illegal residents at the disposal of the court. We usually make those controls. We have been intensifying them in the past few days," Flores Torres said without confirming or denying the report on the presence of terrorists in the country.

According to a reliable police source, the Israeli Embassy is aware of the possibility and has asked for police reinforcements for the guard outside the embassy and the residences of their diplomats.

The embassy has also allegedly said that the terrorists are possibly members of Arab groups who are trying to prevent the signing of a peace agreement in the Middle East. They are allegedly moved by their interest in the arms trade.

## Peru

### Fujimori Guarantees 'Clear' Election Rules

*PA1004233794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2220 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today guaranteed that the rules of the game will be "clear" for next year's general elections and said that he has still not decided on whether he will run for reelection.

"I speak as President of the Republic Alberto Fujimori, not as a candidate," the president said in an interview in Sunday's "Counterpoint" political program aired on Channel Two. "The electoral atmosphere is premature and many things are said that deep down are demagogic," Fujimori replied when asked why the opposition was so distrustful of fraud.

Fujimori stressed that during his tenure three elections have been held (legislative, municipal, and the referendum on the new Constitution). "These elections have been open, unquestionable, and approved by international observers and we will continue down this line," Fujimori assured. The president said that "there must be guarantees that here in Peru free elections will be held, with the presence of international observers" and added that "the people are the only ones who should decide."

According to Fujimori, Javier Perez de Cuellar is "an outstanding citizen who has given Peru a good name

with his work" as UN secretary general. Several conservative opposition sectors have said that their possible candidate, capable of defeating Fujimori, is the former UN general secretary. Even though Perez de Cuellar has not confirmed his candidacy for the 1995 elections, the Peruvian president "welcomed the virtual candidate."

Fujimori stressed that elections can be held in Peru because "now there is democracy and security" and he refused the adjective "authoritarian" to describe his regime.

A national poll released today confirmed that there are significant differences regarding the approval of Fujimori's term and citizens' choice in the next election. According to a poll by Imasen, in Lima and the provinces 57.7 percent of the population back the president's term, with 31.8 percent disapproving. If the elections were held tomorrow and the candidates were Fujimori and Perez de Cuellar, the president would get 35.1 percent of the votes and Perez de Cuellar 32.9 percent. The study disclosed that the distance between the president and the former UN secretary general is lessening and in the provinces the president leads by a much smaller margin.

In a runoff election, Perez de Cuellar would win in Lima with 45.7 percent of support, and Fujimori receiving 44.1 percent. In the country's interior, the former diplomat would win in 10 of the 11 cities polled.

Fujimori said "that human rights in Peru are guaranteed" and added that the subversive elements are tried effectively, in accordance with his government's antiterrorist legislation. The Peruvian president said that the Maoist Shining Path group is "totally weakened" and that the desertion of its members who are still in the country is "massive."

The fight against terrorism will continue with the same force, without neglecting the fight against drug trafficking. "Without the national pacification, democracy could not have been built as we are doing," Fujimori stressed.

## Perez de Cuellar Terms Candidacy 'Premature'

*PY0804214594 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said it would be premature to talk about a presidential candidacy. He said that any candidate would demand that the elections be clean and have guarantees.

[Begin Perez de Cuellar recording] I did say that any candidate who runs for the presidency, or for a seat in the unicameral Congress we now have, would demand that the elections be clean, that the elections have guarantees. But having said that does not mean I have accepted becoming a presidential candidate. I believe that would still be a little premature. We do not know if the current president will run for reelection; that is not known, either. But naturally I cannot fail to say that I feel very honored [words indistinct] who believe I could represent a democratic solution in the upcoming general elections. [end recording]

Let us continue to listen to Javier Perez de Cuellar, in an exclusive interview with Radio Programas del Peru from Paris. Perez de Cuellar said that if he becomes a candidate, he would not be a candidate in opposition to President Alberto Fujimori, but rather to his government policy.

[Begin recording, in progress]...not in opposition to President Fujimori, but to a policy, and not necessarily against an individual. We are not dealing with an individual. The Peruvian problem is not the problem of an individual, it is the problem of government, a problem of policy. When I gave you an answer, what I meant was that I don't want to be a candidate in opposition to the president, if he runs for reelection, but to various aspects of his policies. And this is how it should be—not an opposition to an individual but to his policy, to his government actions. Therefore, if I were a candidate, I would not be a candidate in opposition to the president, but in opposition to the policies of the current government. [end recording]

## Fujimori on Salaries, OAS Secretary, Trade

*PY0904000094 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 29 Mar 94 p 2*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori announced yesterday a salary increase of 40 percent for teachers and health personnel with professional degrees, and a 30 to 33 percent increase for those without degrees.

He also announced that the minimum salary for the private sector will go from 72 to 132 new soles as of 1 April, and that for public servants the minimum salary will be 300 new soles.

According to the presidential announcement, the salary increase will represent an additional spending in the budget of 180 million new soles.

President Fujimori indicated that the increase represents a partial recovery of the purchasing power of state workers.

He added that a decision was also made to increase the salaries of the National Police and the Armed Forces, but he did not specify by how much.

The salary issue was one of the more difficult demands to be met by the government. In all the polls done a high percentage demanded an urgent salary increase.

When the sale of some public companies such as the Peruvian Telephone Company was done for more than $2 billion, many sectors believed the government was in the condition to increase salaries substantially.

The president, however, denied this several times, saying that the country cannot go back to populist measures.

The president said: "Under no circumstances will the income from privatizations be used in administrative spending such as salary increases."

On the contrary, he said, about $1.6 billion will be used on what he called "social spending," which was later defined as "investment in productive employment."

The president also said that the money received from privatizations will not be used to pay the foreign debt, and therefore it is not clear where the money to pay the announced salary increase will come from.

Regarding the "minimum salary" of 300 new soles for public servants, some leaders expressed their doubts because "for the first time the salaries of public servants will be above the private sector."

Despite the fact that the president said many times that it was not necessary to increase the minimum salary "because we are in an open market ruled by the law of supply and demand," this salary was increased yesterday from 72 to 132 new soles.

President Alberto Fujimori also referred to the recent election of Colombian President Cesar Gaviria as new OAS secretary general.

Fujimori said Gaviria would give greater dynamism and a new focus to this continental organization, "which for years has been involved more in international political discussions."

He added that an emphasis on regional integration in the fields of economic and commercial development and the struggle against drug trafficking are points that will receive special treatment by the new OAS secretary general, with whom Fujimori shares these concerns.

Fujimori then referred to the working tour to be made by Efrain Goldenberg, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, and Energy and Mines Minister Daniel Hokama throughout Asia to promote the investment possibilities offered by Peru.

Fujimori is confident that as a result of the meetings to be held by the ministers with Asian businessmen and investors, they will respond with the same enthusiasm found in the Americas and Europe to invest in the country.

President Fujimori made these comments after dedicating five educational centers built by the National Institute of Education and Health Infrastructure (Infes) with an investment of $1,425,630 from the Public Treasury.

## Uruguay

### Foreign Minister Rejects UN Drug Report

*PY0804183994 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 31 Mar 94 p 9*

[Text] Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, who returned to our country on 30 March after chairing the OAS assembly, rejected a UN report on the "laundering" of drug trafficking money in some of our country's free trade zones.

Abreu categorically rejected this possibility. Nevertheless, he said he would carefully review this issue.

Denying the document that circulated in the United Nations, the foreign minister stressed: "There is not a single possibility for Uruguay to be a drug trafficking center."

For his part, Jose Luis Ovalle, the Free Trade Zones national director, said this document is almost one month old. This information has been picked up from the press, he said, adding that the entire issue is inaccurate.

Abreu also pointed out that during his visit to the United States to participate in the OAS General Assembly in which current Colombian President Cesar Gaviria was elected new OAS secretary general, he met his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella, with whom he discussed the Martin Garcia Canal issue.

During these talks, compliance with the agreements reached by the two countries on the Martin Garcia Canal was confirmed, Abreu said.

Abreu added that Gaviria's appointment as OAS secretary general is good news and that his candidacy allowed the achievement of a Latin American consensus.

Gaviria will step down this year and take over the OAS General Secretariat in August. Gaviria's candidacy was supported by Uruguay and the rest of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] partners.

During Gaviria's campaign, Abreu conducted negotiations to enhance a Latin American consensus, a political goal pursued by the Uruguayan foreign minister for a long time.

## Venezuela

### Alleged Traffickers Raid Airport, Hijack Plane

*PA1004182494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1728 GMT 10 Apr 94*

[Text] Caracas, 10 Apr (AFP)—The Venezuelan Police have reported that 10 heavily armed individuals, alleged members of a Colombian drug trafficking-guerrilla column, today raided the Cachiche-Aramara Airport in Puerto Ayacucho, 520 km southeast of Caracas, hijacked a plane, and fled to Colombia.

A Caracas Radio Rumbos report indicated that the violent attack took place at 0600 (1000 GMT)—a time when more that 1,000 members of the military and police forces quartered at the airport "were sound asleep." According to the radio station, the airport's traffic controller, whose name remained undisclosed, arrived as the plane was taking off with the attackers on board.

It was also reported that the raid by the alleged Colombian drug trafficking-guerrilla column took place at a time when members of the state security corps were in Puerto Ayacucho combing the area to rescue a Venezuelan citizen who was kidnapped 10 days ago. The plane, of which no details were released, belongs to the regional Puerto Ayacucho government.

## Air Force Destroys Clandestine Landing Strips

*PA0804214594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2114 GMT 8 Apr 94*

[Text] Caracas, 8 Apr (AFP)—It has been officially disclosed that for the very first time the Venezuelan Air Force today used war planes to bomb several clandestine landing strips used by garimpeiros [Brazilian gold seekers] in the southernmost part of the country.

Defense Minister General Angel Montero Revette said after a meeting with President Rafael Caldera that Tucano airplanes and ultramodern F-16 fighter bombers destroyed the landing strips with war bombs "to prevent the garimpeiros from violating national sovereignty."

Although Montero did not disclose how many airplanes were used or landing strips destroyed, he said that reconnaissance efforts had been conducted previously by land in Sierra de Parima and Delgado Chalbaud hill, over 1,100 km south of Caracas and virtually on the Brazilian border.

The minister stressed that these actions were coordinated with the Brazilian Armed Forces.

Government sources have disclosed that the Army and militarized National Guard also participated in the operation.

A week ago National Guard troops clashed with a group of garimpeiros. One of the gold seekers was killed, two were captured, and four managed to escape.

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